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NOTICE TO READERS: On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

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Antidrug Conference Concludes With Agreements

PA2704045391 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] The ninth world antidrug conference concluded in Cartagena today. It can be described as a success because a great majority of the participants reached agreements. They promised to help each other and exchange information to efficiently combat the drug business. Gloria Congote filed this report:

[Begin recording] After five days of work at the antidrug summit in Cartagena, the representatives of 25 countries reached agreements. First, they asked the seven industrialized powers to strictly control international trade in chemicals used to manufacture cocaine and check the background of companies that import them. Second, they agreed to sign multilateral agreements through the United Nations or invoke the Vienna Convention to share the money seized from drug trafficking. Third, they agreed to train the authorities in the investigation and the follow-up of money laundering and chemicals purchases. Also, beginning today, they will organize a data bank to gather information on the movements of drug traffickers and on the background and actions of criminal organizations.

Aruba, Nicaragua, and Curacao were accepted as new members of the conference, which brings together 25 countries that are fighting drug trafficking. Within a year they will meet again in Bolivia to assess the results obtained in 1991. [end recording]

At the antidrug summit there were many secrets and confidential information that no one wanted made known. However, the walls revealed many things to Gloria Congote:

[Begin recording] It is definitely true that what is said behind closed doors is heard by the walls and told. Apparently some countries asked for restrictions on the sale of jet fuel and the summit rejected that request. Everyone agreed that the most likable delegate was Mexico's.

The most exciting moment was the vote for the country to host the upcoming antidrug summit. The rivals were Bolivia and Argentina, but Bolivia won by a vote of 13 to 12. Uruguay, which is considered Latin America's Switzerland, made news. That country lifted bank secrecy for accounts over $10,000, but its representatives said nothing.

Consideration was given to opening the borders of Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina to control drug trafficking, but national sovereignty prevented agreement. The bestselling book this week in Cartagena was Cosa Nostra by journalist Fabio Castillo. Nicaragua, the new member of the group of countries fighting drug trafficking, has already reported results:

[Nicaraguan representative Justo Pastor Pacheco] About two weeks ago we arrested drug traffickers at the Costa Rican border. Two Mexicans traveling in a Volkswagen were arrested with 20 to 30 kg of cocaine in their possession. [end recording]

Cuba

Castro Statements at 'Health for All' Fair

FL3004150191 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1042 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Statements made by President Fidel Castro at the "Health for All" Medical Equipment Fair in Havana on 29 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] I am truly impressed with the efforts made in the last two years and with the results. I thought I was informed of the main things that were being done. Nevertheless, I saw that there were many things that I did not know about. There are new inventions and new achievements. I have witnessed enormous enthusiasm among the comrades who are here. I also observed a great spirit of cooperation among all the institutions. I saw more things. I saw everyone not only thinking about saving resources and producing goods such as medicine, which used to be imported, but I also saw great concern not only in producing for our consumption but also production for exports. There is great concern about exporting equipment and medicine of the type you are developing.

I also saw a large amount of medicine and technology that is exclusively Cuban. I believe that this exporting spirit shows the awareness of the need to develop this field and turn it into one of the main sources of exports inasmuch as we will not be oil exporters in the future. We have looked for it enough and it would not be bad if a little oil was found. What I am certain of is that we are going to be exporters of health. We are going to be exporters of years of life. We are going to be exporters of wellness for humankind. We are not going to be exporters of automobiles. We are not going to be exporters of some of those sophisticated things of consumer societies but we are going to be exporters of things man appreciates a lot, I would say of the things human beings appreciate the most: wellness and health. We are not only going to export years of life but years of healthy life.

So, those things we saw today fill us with true enthusiasm. It also fills us with pride by thinking that our people are capable of doing things today that many engineers and industrialists from developed capitalist countries admire. Many of them did not conceive or could not conceive that Cuba could do the things it is doing. I say: That is nothing. It is nothing because this is just the beginning. [passage omitted]

A great cooperation and effort—a broad effort—can be seen. We have said all universities need to do research. All hospitals need to do research. Research needs to be conducted everywhere, wherever a group of scientists meet. We are promoting research to the maximum. It is clear that this could not have been done 15 or 20 years ago because we did not have the personnel we have today. We now have personnel that can give everything it is giving and a lot more. As we have more information and more awareness of the problems, more capabilities and the minimum necessary resources, I believe that the enormous talent potential our country has will make an extraordinary contribution to the development of the country. You see all kinds of things. There is a sterilizer that does not require electricity which will be used during the special period. There are other kinds of sterilizers.

I am certain that if we continue on the same track, there will be no product in pharmacology that we will not be able to produce. [passage omitted]

They are real, notable, and promising advances and I believe we are just beginning. Some new products are being tested. Perhaps we will be able to distribute them to the population in the second half of the year. There are many, many prospects and we are going to create more and more research centers. Wherever there is a group of serious researchers, we will give them resources and aid so that they work in what they are doing. There is nothing more important than the human brain and what the human brain is capable of, especially of what the human brain is capable of doing with a noble motivation, an awareness of the value of what is being done, with love for others, with a feeling of solidarity toward others, the people, and the world.

Havana Notes Soviet Unemployment Projections

FL3004191191 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Anatoliy Kapuskin, director of the National Unemployment Fund, [name of organization as heard] reported today in Moscow that from eight to 40 million Soviets could lose their jobs as a result of economic reforms and the implementation of a market economy. He added that since 1987 more than a million people have been left unemployed in the USSR due to the closure of unprofitable enterprises. Kapuskin believes that under the present conditions it is impossible to create an effective system for the protection of unemployed people.

New Tourism To Outstrip Pre-Castro Casino Days

FL3004143791 Bridgetown CANA in English 1230 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Report by Julie Chen]

[Text] Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, April 30, CANA Tourist resorts are springing up across Cuba in a way never seen in the old capitalist days of casino gambling and wild nightlife under tropical skies.

The foreign exchange-starved government of Fidel Castro is building 5,000 hotel rooms a year to increase the present 13,000 to 30,000 by 1995 as it rebuilds an industry shunned for most of 32 years of socialist revolution. To be sure, the high rollers won't find a haven in Havana.

"We are offering a healthy type of tourism. We don't plan to open any casinos or prostitution houses," Alcibiades Hidalgo, first vice minister in the Ministry of External Relations, told a group of Jamaican and Caribbean journalists. The group flew from Jamaica to see first-hand the reawakening of the sleeping giant which is causing anxious moments for other Caribbean industry players fearful of a threat to their business.

"We are not going to build another Jamaica or Bahamas here," declared Eduardo Garcia, a tour guide with state-owned Cubatur, one of four major companies which market Cuba's tourism. Our goal is to expand our capacity very far. We know we have the market in Europe; we just need to develop," Garcia said.

Jamaican investors, anxious to be in on the developments, are into joint ventures with the Cuban Government in at least two projects. And many take comfort in the knowledge that the United States, which supplies the bulk of the Caribbean visitors, maintains a ban on tourist and business travel to Cuba.

Prior to the 1959 revolution which overthrew the government of dictator Fulgencio Batista, Cuba was a leading destination for tourists, attracting as many as 270,000 visitors a year mainly from the U.S.

The political changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union which have significantly cut supplies to the island, have helped spur the renewed interest in tourism. Cuban tourism officials are banking on building a vibrant product on cost-competitive, yet high-quality, service from "ideal workers" through joint ventures with Western businesses. The inducements include tax-free returns, a safe environment, and the natural beauty of the island.

"The Cuban Government is well informed about what to do and is taking the development of their tourism project very seriously," said Abe Moore, resident manager of the Los Cactus Hotel, a joint venture between the Cubans and Jamaican hotelier John Issa in Veradero on Cuba's north coast.

"They are aware of the sacrifices it requires, and they have a positive attitude towards tourism." The Cubans hope to increase the number of visitors from 370,000 in 1989 to 1.5 million in 1995. Cuba earned about U.S. 240 million dollars from tourism in 1989, according to government figures.

The country is gearing its tourism project towards Western Europe, Latin America, and Canada. In 1989, 66,000 Canadians, 95,000 Europeans, and 30,000 South Americans visited the island.

According to officials, Cuba can attract up to three percent of the Caribbean tourism market of just over 10 million in 1990.

Tourist enclaves dot the island. At Veradero, west of Havana, a 20-kilometre-expanse of white sand beaches, four-and five-star hotels are under construction. Officials hope to have at least 30,000 rooms in place by 1995.

A 27-kilometre causeway has been built between the mainland and the Cocos Cays on the north coast to capitalise on the island's wildlife. The Cays are a beautiful rock formation with an abundance of pink flamingoes, beaches, and other flora and fauna.

Only hotel workers and visitors are allowed through the check-point halfway on the causeway. On the Cays, a 4,500-room complex is being built at an estimated cost of U.S. 22 million dollars.

Much refurbishment is also underway, as well as training of staff for the properties. The Los Cactus Hotel by Issa will close in May for refurbishing and to finish construction of 130 more rooms.

Other developments are taking place in the interior of the island and in Santiago de Cuba on the south, where Jamaicans and other tourists are visiting from Montego Bay on twice-weekly flights.

The cost of hotel accommodation is competitive. At the five-star Havana Rivieria Hotel, it costs U.S. 60 dollars per night double. The Havana Libre, another five-star hotel, costs about U.S. 90 dollars in the high season.

It is estimated that Cuba retains as much as 70 to 80 percent of its tourism earnings because the industry uses a high amount of locally produced food, drink, and building supplies. Some consumer goods, cars, buses, cutlery and other fixtures, some liquor and pastry are imported.

The Cubans are optimistic about their tourism future. Their attitude is summed up by a young hotel trainee who apologised to a group of visitors because the tourist product in Cuba was not yet of world standard.

"But," she told them, "one day we will get there."

Panamanian Trade Union Leader on Tour

FL3004120391 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2326 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Felix Robaina report on the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Jose Manuel Benitez, secretary of international relations of the National Workers Federation of Panama and of the America Department of the World Federation of Trade Unions, has toured the area here in northeastern Holguin Province with Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, and Pedro Ross Leal, secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation. At the end of his visit, we interviewed him for "Exclusivo" on Rebelde. Let us listen to what he told us about his visit to this area.

[Begin recording] [Benitez] For me it has been a great experience. We have been able to hear from the union

leaders themselves about the problems they face right now, the solutions they communicate right away, or the formulas they hope will solve these problems. It is particularly obvious that there is a very clear awareness of the efficiency of this country's labor union movement regarding the problems the revolution is experiencing at this time as a result not only of the embargo of over more than 30 years but also because of the new situation that has been created because of the readjustments that have been taking place in the Eastern European countries, where the socialist camp has practically deteriorated.

So some countries have gone over to the capitalist system. Cuba had a number of trade agreements that allowed it to continue to progress in the tasks of the revolution. The important thing about all this is the openness with which the top leadership has been explaining to the labor movement and the people the measures that must be taken before the crisis gets worse. Solution to the problems that are supposed to come are being sought. This gives the possibility that if they do not arise, or if they are not as bad, advancement of this revolutionary process will continue. We think that things are very well set up. We think the effort the workers are making to take things forward is the guarantee this place has and we think that victory is certain.

[Robaina] How do you see the preparations Cuba is making to celebrate 1 May, and how do you hope it will be celebrated in your country?

[Benitez] Well, here I have no doubt that in all provinces there will be a very great and combative 1 May. Under the conditions of a country occupied militarily by foreign troops, we have a lot of problems, but the work that has been done has prepared us to guarantee a united 1 May is on the way and we believe it will be very good. The preparations are basic. The gains we have lost.... [changes thought] The large unemployment in the country will not be solved with the foreign troops in the country. So our first point is the withdrawal of the troops to be able to guarantee our own situation. [end recording]

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

'Fierce Narrow Nationalism' Urges Mass Education

FL3004175891 Bridgetown CANA in English
1604 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, April 30, CANA - The Grenada delegation to the second sitting of the Regional Constituent Assembly on Windward Islands political unity described the meeting as very productive and successful. The meeting held in St. Lucia involved representatives of a variety of interests from St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica.

Chester Humphrey, the trade union representative on the Grenada delegation, voiced concern at what he said was the apparent rush by some prime ministers to establish a political union of the four countries.

"It is the view of the trades union movement that a lot has to be done in terms of education," Humphrey told reporters. "I don't think people are ready for a complete relinquishing of our sovereignty into some kind of union."

He said political independence for Grenada after centuries of colonial domination had spawned a "fierce narrow nationalism" here. "...I don't think you can overcome that overnight," he said.

Former Prime Minister Ben Jones, who headed the delegation, agreed there was need for more mass education on the initiative, something he said the delegation was setting out to do.

Barbados

Central Bank Reports First Quarter GDP Down

FL0105013191 Bridgetown CANA in English
2253 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Report by Colin King]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 30, CANA—Barbados' 1991 first quarter economic output declined 1.5 per cent below the corresponding period of last year, but performance is expected to pick up from the April-June quarter, the Central Bank reported Tuesday.

"The Gulf War and the economic recession in our major trading partners did cause the economy to decline slightly during the first quarter of this year but it was not as severe as many expected or feared," Bank Governor Dr. Kurleigh King said. He told a press conference that output for the current second quarter will likely be better than last year's but that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the entire year is still expected to "be a little bit lower than in 1990, which itself was 3.5 per cent lower than in 1989."

First quarter visits fell 10.2 per cent and sugar production was nearly 3 per cent below the 1990 first quarter but was expected to end the crop 9 per cent higher than 1990. Construction and non-sugar agriculture fell off, manufacturing expanded slightly, and oil production rose 25 per cent.

"The real reason for the decline in our overall output was tourism as expected. Some had feared that our tourism would fall by 30, 40, 50 per cent," the bank governor said. Tourism arrivals, however, fell only 10 per cent, with more than a 20 per cent decline in arrivals from both the U.S. and Canada partly offset by strong increases from Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries and continental Europe, and a slight hike from Britain.

There was continued pressure on the balance of payments with sluggish domestic exports and increased retained imports boosted by strong demand for consumer and capital goods.

"Our foreign reserve situation remains a little bit uncomfortable but we have seen some improvement in the first quarter and we believe that this improvement will continue," King said. The bank estimates that the current account surplus was only a quarter of the amount recorded during 1990 first quarter. Foreign reserves grew by nine million dollars (one Bds dollar = 50 U.S. cents), and on Tuesday stood at 185 million dollars, representing under two months' supply of imports.

In the government accounts, 1991 first quarter revenues rose 6.2 per cent, creating "significant reduction" in the fiscal deficit compared with the similar period of 1990, the bank said. The commercial banking sector recorded minimal growth in deposits in the first quarter, compared with a rise of 98.5 million dollars in the period last year. Domestic credit fell 24 million dollars, with government borrowing down 64 million (helped by inflows from a foreign loan), and private credit up 40 million mainly in loans to the distributive sector and public utilities.

King expressed concern on the apparent change in savings behaviour: "This is not a time for giving up the very healthy habit of saving that has served us in good stead in the past." He described as "unfortunate" the large share of the increase in private credit going to distribution instead of manufacturing.

The bank anticipates increased sugar production and improved summer tourism activity will boost output in the second quarter above that of the period last year, although output in 1991 as a whole will be slightly lower than 1990. Oil and agricultural production should improve but manufacturing is unlikely to rise significantly and construction could decline.

Budgetary proposals should improve the fiscal position but more foreign exchange losses could persist because of demand for imports and debt service obligations, the bank reported. King said the island needs to continue efforts to increase output in tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, and offshore services, to regain a comfortable foreign exchange position.

Bank Governor Urges Further Spending Cuts

FL3004233591 Bridgetown CANA in English
2149 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 30, CANA—Central Bank Governor Dr. Kurleigh King said on Tuesday that fiscal and monetary measures in the 1991 budget were a step in the right direction but further government spending cuts were necessary.

"The attempts by the government to reduce the deficit from the very high level that it shot up to in 1990, over 8 per cent of GDP (Gross Domestic Product), the attempts to halve it, are regarded as being a very strong move in the right direction," he said during a news conference.

King reported a 1.5 per cent first quarter economic decline compared to January-March last year. He said budget measures will likely improve government finances but that debt service obligations and strong demand for imports would sustain foreign exchange losses. "The budget, I think, was a sound one that has been well received by the international community," King said.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Erskine Sandiford in his April budget presentation proposed increases in some residential mortgage loan rates and also announced new taxation measures and spending cuts, with a promise of further reductions if this became necessary.

"I might say here and now that.... We believe that he will in fact carry out that promise.... We believe that that is necessary because the foreign reserves are still under some pressure.

"And we believe that a further reduction of the deficit from 4 per cent of GDP to perhaps about 3 per cent of GDP would be in everybody's best interest," King said. This further reduction in the deficit would represent a saving of about 30 million dollars, he calculated.

King, emphasising his view that a currency devaluation is not needed to improve the balance of payments position, said fiscal measures will be given a chance to work before there is any consideration of firmer monetary measures.

"For the time being, we would like to watch how the economy responds to the fiscal measures that have been taken, before any further or more severe monetary measures would be put in place," he said.

"We believe that monetary measures are really only short-term measures to deal with the balance of payments equilibrium.... It must be dealt with by a greater output of tradeables. That is the final solution. We must increase our earnings of foreign exchanage.

"One budget proposal, to raise the mortgage rate for new houses from 9 to 10 per cent, is "likely to be implemented with effect from some time in the very near future," King told reporters.

"But apart from that I don't see any immediate changes in other aspects of our monetary policy.

"I think that the real solution for us now is to get on with the question of output, and I hope that some way can be found to further stimulate the sector.... We do need to do a great deal more in terms of our production for export if we are to solve the problem of the foreign exchange reserves."

Haiti

President Addresses Human Rights Session

FL3004224591 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Report on speech by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, by correspondent Clarens, at the opening of the sixth session of the Caribbean Human Rights Network in Port-au-Prince on 25 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] At the opening of the session, the president of the Republic solemnly committed himself to respect the rights of the Haitian people. He called on all Haitians to commit themselves along with him to face the challenge. Aristide said: I am committed to respecting the rights of the Haitian people. I am committed to making human rights blossom in Haiti.

The head of state was invited to open the workshops of this session which was held for the first time in Haiti from 25-28 April. He insisted on the commitment of his government in this great struggle in the fight against repression of human rights. While solemnly reiterating this commitment, Jean-Bertrand Aristide invited Haitian citizens, men and women to commit themselves to respecting human rights. This challenge is initiated by our generation to say no to horror, no to dictatorship. [passage omitted]

For the president of the Republic, guest of honor at the opening meeting of the Caribbean sixth session, the respect for human rights is not limited only within Haitian borders. It is a Caribbean, continental, and worldwide objective which calls on everyone's effort. The president said that when a man suffers, if we are human; we suffer with him. When a woman rejoices for having fought against horror, if we are human; we rejoice with this person. As such, while thanking all Haitians and foreigners who participated in preparing 16 December and 7 February, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide requested again their well-balanced help in order to reach this objective of total respect for human rights in Haiti. The president expects help mainly from our American friends. The U.S. Government's cooperation is, if not indispensable, necessary in order to assist the Haitian people in their efforts to obtain respect for all their rights. Directly addressing the U.S. ambassador, who was present, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide insistently requested the hand of friendly countries, among them the Americans, to help Haiti to reinforce democracy. [passage omitted] Friendly embraces and firm handshakes ensued. The head of state ended his speech in the arms of the representative of the U.S. Government in Haiti, Alvin Adams who was attending the opening of the Caribbean Human Rights Network workshops.

In his improvised speech, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide also paid tribute to the many victims of repression, those who were murdered and died like heroes, and the persecuted who had to leave the country. Aristide said that today in respect for the human rights cause, and for the human being, it is necessary to have new political ethics. It is necessary to have the will to give oneself, to sacrifice oneself partially or even totally for the great cause of human rights. [passage omitted]

Seven countries were represented at the sixth session of the Caribbean Network. These workshops were held for the first time in Haiti.

Peasant Congress Opens, Land Reforms Demanded

FL0105012691 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Report by correspondent Duperval Ronald in Les Cayes]

[Text] The arrest and trial of the former section chief of the sixth communal section of Melonienne in Chantal, Ofalien Rene; distribution of all state-administered lands to peasants; and the establishment of an institution that would permit proper land reforms are some of the main demands that resulted from a peasant congress held 26 to 28 April in Melonienne, the sixth communal section of Chantal.

More than 6000 people from 123 peasant organizations, based in several places, gathered under the banner of the Melonienne Peasant Movement on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the movement. The peasants met to share their experiences during the last four years and to show solidarity with all other peasants who are fighting for a complete change throughout Haiti; to see what progress has been made during the past four years; to see how the peasants will move forward on the promises; and to critique what is good and bad in all their basic committees. After many discussions, the peasants realized the need to be more united and reaffirmed their wish to better organize themselves in order to have a say, for the first time, in decisions to be made on the future of Haiti. The peasants also asked for reforms in public administration, for setting up municipal and departmental assemblies, for distribution of all state-administered land in Platons, and in the fifth communal section of Chantal, as well as reform in public schools, community clinics, and maintenance of roads, the lack of which pose a real problem for the peasants.

The congress lasted more than two days in a joyful atmosphere, solidarity, and mutual comprehension. At the end, a mass was celebrated in order to ask God to be the people's deliverance.

St Lucia

Government Postpones Adopting CET on 1 May

FL3004235591 Bridgetown CANA in English 2207 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, April 30, CANA—St. Lucia will not introduce the Caribbean Community's new Common External Tariff (CET) May 1, according to

Anthony Severin, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Trade. The government spokesman told CANA [CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY] on Tuesday this was because some members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States [OECS] were not ready to pass the relevant legislation.

The CET, agreed to by community leaders during their summit in Jamaica last year, provides for a unified tax structure against third country imports. The aim is to protect and encourage development of Caribbean products.

"On the eve of implementing the CET, we checked and were informed that they (OECS countries) were not able to meet the deadline," the permanent secretary reported. He did not disclose what problems were confronting the OECS countries. The OECS comprises St. Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Montserrat, and St. Vincent.

The St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture said the postponement left the private sector unsure of the future of the CET. "There were sufficient signals over the last couple of weeks to indicate in fact that was going to happen. What we don't know is.... whether they (government) want now a period to further examine it," Richard Peterkin, the Chamber's president, told CANA. Peterkin said the Chamber was "once again left on the horns of a dilemma."

"In one respect we in the Caribbean accept that there is a need for greater Caribbean integration.... (but) on the other hand if the instruments (for deepening the integration) are going to be accepted there must be a common understanding that it will bring about the kind of changes that will be necessary," he said.

Peterkin reported the Chamber had found "some flaws" in the CET. He said: "There is no assurance that when it is implemented it will bring about the changes that are necessary for Caribbean goods to flow freely."

St. Lucia passed legislation in December last year, indicating that it would be implementing the CET by proclamation, once it was satisfied that all member countries would introduce the legislation. The CET is in force in some Caribbean Community countries.

Trinidad and Tobago

NAR Begins Nominations; Election Date Due

FL2904175191 Bridgetown CANA in English
2109 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Report by Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 28, CANA—The ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) was told Sunday to start nominating candidates, raising speculation that a date for general elections will soon be announced. After a special one-day conference of the NAR, party leader, Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, told CANA [CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY]:

"We are getting into an elections mould. Of course, all the other apsects of the preparation would be put into place," he added. General elections are due by next March. Local government elections are also due.

The NAR was elected to office in December 1986 as a broad coalition of interests which came together to end the 30-year rule of the People's National Movement (PNM). Robinson confidently predicted a second five-year term for the NAR, saying the majority of the population knew tough measures had to be taken to turn around the economy which has been in decline since the early 80's.

"We are going to the people in a very serious way as a party that has governed and governed effectively," he said. "...While we began as a new party, we are now the most experienced party in government, having regard (not) to the length of time, which has not been long, but the nature of the problems we have had to grapple with...."

The NAR from its first year in office implemented stringent economic policies, including a controversial 10 percent cut in public sector salaries.

NAR chairman Herbert Atwell told reporters the party saw the minority parliamentary opposition PNM as its main rival in the forthcoming elections. The main parliamentary opposition, United National Congress (UNC), formed in 1989 as a splinter of the NAR, is currently plagued by internal strife. Its executive resigned last week. The NAR, elected in 1986 with 33-3 majority, now controls 26 seats in the House of Representatives.

Opposition PNM Reacts to NAR Nomination Deadline

FL3004172091 Bridgetown CANA in English
1539 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 30, CANA - The opposition People's National Movement (PNM), ousted in 1986 general elections after 30 years in power, is "more ready than ever" to reassume the position of Trinidad and Tobago's governing party, leader Patrick Manning said. Manning was reacting to the May month-end deadline set at the weekend by the Ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) for its constituency branches to nominate candidates to contest forthcoming general elections.

"The PNM now stands an even better chance of winning the general elections," Manning told CANA, pointing to the party's victory in a by-election last year.

"That by-election victory has shown us that the people want us in power again; that the PNM is the only serious party, and our policies for the country have been accepted."

Manning, who was unexpectedly thrust into the leadership after the PNM's massive 1986 defeat, said the party had already selected more than half of its candidates. Thirty-six candidates constitute a full slate.

"We are far advanced than any other political party right now," he said.

General elections are due by next March, but the NAR announcement at the weekend heightened speculation that the poll will be held before then. Local government elections, postponed last year after the abortive coup attempt against the government, are also due this year.

PNM Stalwart Muriel Donawa McDavidson Quits

FL3004183691 Bridgetown CANA in English 1748 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Report by Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 30, CANA—Muriel Donawa McDavidson, Trinidad and Tobago's longest serving female parliamentarian and a stalwart of the opposition People's National Movement (PNM), is quitting parliamentary politics.

After serving four consecutive terms in the elected House of Representatives and one term as a senator, McDavidson, a former Cabinet minister, told CANA Tuesday she had lost her zest for active politics.

"I do not feel motivated at this time to contest the (forthcoming) elections, but I would continue to serve the people of Trinidad and Tobago in my own personal capacity," she said.

Trinidad and Tobago is on an election footing following a weekend announcement by the Ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) that it was giving constituency branches until May month-end to complete nomination of candidates.

McDavidson, the representative for the urban constituency of Laventille, also served in local government as a councillor in the borough of San Fernando in 1956.

Trinidadian politics has changed, she said. "....Something is missing...It's not like before."

The insurance executive said she would continue working with the people through her programme, "Taking on the Mantle," which brings unemployed, disenchanted, and other persons together to share motivating ideas and help each other. McDavidson said it was never her desire to become a politician, but she jumped into the fray after being encouraged by the late prime minister, Dr. Eric Williams.

President Initiates Labor Day Commemoration

PA3004194891 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has urged Mexican workers to place the nation's interests ahead of their own when they state their demands. Upon presenting banners to the Labor Congress contingents that will participate in the 1 May parade, Salinas reminded them that Mexico is experiencing a different era.

[Begin Salinas recording] These are times in which you can express and manifest all of your demands and concerns within a legal framework—I repeat—placing our fatherland's highest interests above all else. [end recording]

The president called on all the workers in the country, in waging their daily struggles and stating their demands, to place the nation's interests ahead of their individual or group interests. He insisted that the purpose of Mexico's struggle for transformation is to permanently raise, by way of deeds, the well-being and standard of living of workers, peasants, and all Mexicans in general. The event, which was held in Los Pinos, was attended by the labor secretary and the Labor Congress leaders, but not Fidel Velazquez [president of the Confederation of Mexican Workers—CTM].

Labor Congress President Rafael de Jesus Lozano was the speaker at the event. Later, at a news conference at Los Pinos, he explained that the Labor Congress members are not requesting a general raise. He said that generalized raises lead prices to increase. He explained that the demand for a general minimum wage raise was set forth by the CTM and that the Labor Congress has lent its moral support to the proposal. De Jesus Lozano said that the Labor Congress will decidedly support the free trade treaty.

The labor contingents were pleased because for the first time in 25 years, a president presented the banners to the contingents prior to the 1 May parade.

Meanwhile, CTM leader Fidel Velazquez gave assurances today that the Ibero-American labor organizations are more united now than ever before to defend their rights in response to the free trade treaty.

The CTM categorically stated its opposition to any reform of federal labor laws by the trilateral free trade treaty.

[Begin Velazquez recording] Our current legislation is very advanced and, for the time being, can be considered satisfactory. We aspire to its improvement, but because of the management sector's attitude, I would prefer not to broach this matter now because the economic situation is hindering our progress. [end recording]

In his first news conference following a visit to Canada, Mr. Velazquez said that the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers, ORIT, is more united than ever to defend its members' rights in response to the upcoming free trade treaty. He announced that he met with John Dimitri Negroponte, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico. The CTM, he reiterated to the ambassador, agrees fully with the treaty and supports the federal government's economic policy.

The CTM leader said two days before the commemoration of International Labor Day, that the parade in Mexico will be orderly and larger than ever before with over 1.5 million workers participating. He reiterated that the agreement signed by the Mexican Government with the independent unions establishes that these organizations stage their parade on a different route than that of the Labor Congress contingents

Free Trade Accord, U.S. Tuna Embargo Discussed

PA3004021191 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] The majority of the participants in the Senate's information, opinion and dialogue forum on the Mexico-U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement expressed their opposition to the U.S. embargo on Mexican tuna. Let us hear what Rafael Ruiz Moreno, president of the National Chamber of the Fishing Industry has said:

[Begin recording Ruiz Moreno] As long as the United States does not lift the illegal embargo affecting our tuna exports to the U.S. market, under no circumstances should negotiations on Mexican sea products begin within the framework of the Free Trade Agreement. [end recording]

Francisco Mendoza, who spoke on behalf of the fishermen's cooperatives, demanded the elimination of customs barriers in the commercialization of sea products.

Mario Uribe, president of the National Chamber of Naval Industries said that solving the grave financial crisis affecting Mexican shipyards in order to prevent the closure of many fishing enterprises is urgent.

Eduardo Castro [not further identified] stressed the need for legislation on Article 25 of the Constitution in order to clearly specify the scope of action for fishing activities.

Deputy Ernesto Rivera of the Popular Socialist Party said that his party is against the free trade agreement, and that Mexico would benefit more from the establishment of a free trade zone with the United States and Canada [sentence as heard].

Leftists Form Front for Aug Elections

PA2904230291 Paris AFP in Spanish 1541 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Apr (AFP)—Four Mexican leftist organizations agreed on 27 April to form a Socialist Electoral Front [Frente Electoral Socialista] (FES), given

the "need to establish electoral opportunities for all the socialist groups and activists in light of the ideology's dispersal."

The FES includes The Revolutionary Workers Party (Trotskiyist), the Revolutionary Socialist Current [La Corriente del Socialismo Revolucionario] (communist), the People's Front [El Frente del Pueblo], and the Independent Democratic Alliance. These united parties will participate in the forthcoming legislative elections in August.

The deputy candidates will be "labor and peasant movement champions," as well as defenders of human rights and representatives of the people's social movements.

According to Raul Jardon, a FES leader, this movement attempts to regroup those in Mexico who "still consider socialism as a valid option." Jardon claims that "today, more than ever, socialism is feasible in our country, given that the current development model has failed and the people are in the middle of a deep crisis, contrasting with the recovery and bonanza of the large capitalist societies."

Solana Offers Credits to CSFR Exporters

AU3004134291 Prague CTK in English 1731 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Prague April 25 (CTK)— Mexican Foreign Minister Fernando Solana Morales called here today for a higher volume of trade with Czechoslovakia.

Speaking at a press conference held at the end of his two-day official visit to Czechoslovakia he said the Mexican National Bank Bancomex is willing to offer to Czechoslovak enterprises the opening of credit lines (access to credits) to enable them to export their goods to Mexico.

Circles close to the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry told CTK that the value of the credits is expected to be tens of millions of dollars. Agreements on the opening of the credit lines are to be worked out by experts and signed during the planned visit of Mexican President Carlos Salinas to Czechoslovakia in July. The same circles said Mexico does not reject Czechoslovak interest in barter trade but considers the credit line system more operative and dynamic.

Solana praised "certain successes" of the Czechoslovak economic reform reached in a short time.

El Salvador

Details on Approval of Constitutional Changes

PA3004134591 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0744 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] San Salvador, 30 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Early this morning, the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly approved reforms to the 47 articles of the Constitution referring to the Armed Forces, electoral system, judicial system, and human rights—basic topics in the peace negotiations held between the government and the guerrillas.

The Assembly, which ends its session today, approved the creation of the Civilian National Police to replace the public security corps, which will operate under civilian control and independent from the Army in urban and rural areas.

The Armed Forces remain a permanent institution prepared to defend the state and the country's territorial integrity, but will be part of the executive branch and will be surbordinate to the president.

The deputies approved the creation of a Supreme Electoral Tribunal, to replace the Central Electoral Council, a prosecutor for the defense of human rights, and a National Judicature Council.

FMLN Criticizes Assembly

PA3004143291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0908 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] San Salvador, 30 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Legislative Assembly today approved the constitutional reforms that are necessary to continue the peace process with the guerrillas, but the rebels immediately criticized some of the decisions adopted by the Assembly, describing them as insufficient.

Among the leading measures adopted by the Assembly are the creation of the Civilian National Police, independent of the Army, one of the points the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) demanded for agreeing to a cease-fire and negotiating peace after 11 years of war.

The Legislative Assembly modified 47 constitutional articles concerning the Armed Forces, judicial system, electoral system, and human rights, all of which are fundamental issues in the peace negotiations that are taking place under UN auspices.

Shortly after the Assembly adopted its decision at dawn, an FMLN spokesman said that some of the constitutional reforms approved "could hinder" the continuation of the peace negotiations with the government.

"The reforms are intended to prevent an equitable and fair political struggle," Salvador Samayoa told a local radio station in Mexico.

Samayoa, a member of the FMLN's Political-Diplomatic Commission, added that the creation of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE], which will replace the Central Electoral Council, was approved "with last minute modifications to favor the ruling party."

The Assembly decided that the TSE will comprise five justices elected by the Legislative Assembly for five-year terms, three of them designated from lists proposed by the three political parties that obtained the largest number of votes in the past presidential elections.

The last elections were held in March 1989 and were won by the Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena).

"All of this has been spoiled, deformed," Samayoa said, pointing out that the Assembly's decision leaves the Democratic Convergence [CD], a left-wing coalition that achieved a significant presence in the Assembly, in fourth place and out of the TSE.

The Supreme Court justices will be elected by the parliament for a period of nine years and will be eligible for reelection for a similar term, which Samayoa considers "an Arena maneuver to guarantee its control" over the court.

"What is at stake is whether or not we can compete in El Salvador through fair political means, because if we cannot we will be where we were prior to the beginning of the war," Samayoa stressed.

According to the Assembly's agreement, the other two justices of the TSE will be elected by a two-thirds majority of the deputies, from two lists proposed by the Supreme Court.

The Assembly, which concludes its session on 30 April, deemed the Armed Forces a permanent, "obedient, professional, apolitical, and nondeliberating [no deliberante]" institution.

The Civil National Police will replace the security corps and will operate independent of the Army in rural and urban areas, "adhering to the law and with strict respect for human rights."

The Army will maintain the mission of defending the state's sovereignty and the territory's integrity. It will be a part of the executive branch, and will be subordinate to the authority of the president, who will arrange its structure, judicial system, doctrine, composition, and functions.

Likewise, the Assembly established that the Army has the jurisdiction to prosecute crimes and military misdemeanors by way of special procedures and courts.

Also approved was the creation of a National Judicial Council, which will be in charge of proposing candidates for judgeships, including the Supreme Court. According to the approved reforms, an attorney will be named for the defense of human rights, possibly with permanent departmental and local delegates.

These reforms must be ratified by the new Legislative Assembly scheduled to be sworn in on 1 May. The constitutional reform bill approved today was prepared by the four leading political parties represented in the current Assembly, without the CD's participation.

FMLN's Expections Reported

PA3004212691 San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Apr 91

["Press bulletin" issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front on 30 April, place not given]

[Text] In the face of reports on the debates of the National Assembly, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] states:

1. We expect that the Cristiani government and his party's legislative bloc will seriously abide by the commitments made in the Mexico Declaration before the United Nations, the international community, and the nation.

2. The FMLN also expects the political parties will act in a serious manner, keeping in mind the modernization of the state, democratization, and, most of all, peace. To place personal interests above this constitutes a betrayal of the interests of the people.

3. We state that only serious conduct in the negotiations will make peace possible; to make a mockery of the negotiations is to prolong the war.

Handal, Villalobos Comment

PA3004165191 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Commander Jorge Shafik Handal, head of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] negotiating commission, has said that the agreements reached on structural changes in the country, the reforms to the Constitution, the agreements signed in San Jose on human rights, as well as the implementation of the truth commission—agreed upon at this time to investigate the most renowned cases of the Armed Forces' impunity—are significant achievements of the Salvadoran peoples' struggle. These goals, said Handal, were achieved through the FMLN's combatants' bloodshed and heroism. Commander Handal added that the agreements—although partial—will have overwhelming consequences, as they were achieved in spite of the most ferocious, backward, and obstinate opposition.

Commander Handal also said that the agreements have paved the way for regrouping democratic forces—among which are sectors from the private enterprise—to put the nation on the road to modernization and progress. Handal added that an irreversible path has been traced to implement the changes needed for the nation's unity. The war, lead by the FMLN, has demonstrated its justice and flexibility, in favor of the fatherland and of democratization and modernization, noted Handal. To reach the goals, the war will continue supporting the people's efforts; therefore, the FMLN's weapons have guaranteed and will continue to guarantee the process' advance toward democracy and social justice, Commander Handal said. The commander added that the agreement on the Armed Forces is still pending. This agreement would cover the Armed Forces purge; the dissolution of the security corps; the organization of a national police; a solution to the paramilitary groups and the national intelligence agency; as well as the central issue, which is the nation's demilitarization. To conclude, Commander Handal said that the people are writing their own history and tracing, for the first time, their destiny. He said that the negotiating table is useless without the people, their struggles, and their hopes.

Meanwhile, Commander Joaquin Villalobos said that the agreements have sped up the ongoing negotiations. Villalobos noted that if previously we had maintained that the road toward negotiations was irreversible to put an end to the war, now we say that the negotiations are essential and irreversible. The extreme right-wing's reaction and the Armed Forces almost endangered the negotiations' outcome, noted Commander Joaquin Villalobos. The results of the negotiations clearly demonstrate that the FMLN is a force, that at the end of an 11-year struggle, has transformed society, advancing toward democracy and social justice. The new agreements are the road to the end of militarism and the FMLN's weapons are the guarantee that these agreements will be honored and that they will achieve a cease-fire as proposed by the FMLN. Once a cease-fire is achieved, we will be able to pass the second phase of the negotiations and attain peace, Commander Villalobos concluded.

Vice President Views Reforms

PA3004154891 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0335 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Salvadoran Vice President Francisco Merino has expressed satisfaction with the results of the recent round of talks between the government and the FMLN in Mexico City regarding the constitutional reform package.

Merino pointed out that the modifications the FMLN made to the constitutional reform project coincide to a large extent with the proposals made by the four political parties.

[Begin Merino recording] In the proposal, the FMLN describes the progress of the talks and how the subjects dealing with Armed Forces and human rights, and reform in the judicial and electoral systems, have already been identified. Other points, however, will be incorporated into reforms of secondary laws. [end recording]

Merino also said that this is an important stage in the country's history because, for the first time, the Constitution will be reformed through a political and democratic procedure. According to Merino, the two sides have proposed a convenient reform for a democratic

society in the sense that the Armed Forces can continue to play a permanent role in the nation's life.

Annex to Constitutional Reforms Agreement

PA3004221791 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 30 Apr 91 pp 36, 37

["Agreement Reached in Mexico on Constitutional Reforms," signed by the Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, as an annex to the 27 April "Mexico Declaration"]

[Text] The Government of the Republic of El Salvador and the FMLN, in compliance with the Geneva Agreement and the Caracas Agenda, have signed the following document with regard to constitutional reforms:

The Legislative Assembly of the Republic of El Salvador,

Whereas: I. It is this Assembly's firm purpose and duty to contribute to the restoration of peace, national reconciliation, and the reunification of the Salvadoran society in accordance with the collective will of our people.

II. The peace negotiations being conducted in conformity with the Geneva Accord of 4 April 1990 and the Caracas Agenda of 21 May 1990 require several constitutional reforms to support any political accords that might result from said reforms. .

Therefore: The Legislative Assembly of El Salvador, in the exercise of the functions stipulated in Article 248 of the extant Constitution, hereby approves the following constitutional reforms.

Article 1. Article 30 is hereby abrogated.

Article 2. In Article 77, the expression "Central Electoral Council" is hereby replaced by "Supreme Electoral Tribunal." A new paragraph is added to this article thus: The legally registered political parties shall be entitled to supervising the preparation, organization, publication, and updating of the voter registration list.

Article 3. Paragraph 37 of Article 131 is hereby amended, to read thus:

To recommend the removal of ministers of state by the president of the Republic and the removal of autonomous institutional officials when deemed necessary as the result of an investigation conducted by a special commission or an interrogation of said officials, as the case may be. The Assembly resolution shall be binding whenever it refers to the public security or intelligence heads and regarding serious human rights violations.

Article 4. Article 162 is hereby amended, to read thus:

Article 162. It is up to the president of the Republic to appoint, remove, accept the resignations of, and grant leaves of absence to ministers and deputy ministers, as well as to public security and state intelligence chiefs.

Article 5. Article 163 is hereby amended, to read thus:

Article 163. The decrees, accords, directives, and instructions issued by the president of the Republic should be confirmed and disseminated by each minister, or by the deputy ministers, as the case may be, in the respective ministries. Such instructions shall not be legally binding if these requirements are not met.

Article 6. Paragraphs 11 and 12 of Article 168 are hereby amended. Three new paragraphs, numbered 17 thru 19 inclusive, are hereby added to this article, thus:

11. To lead, organize, and preserve the Armed Forces, grant military ranks, and order the mission, position, or discharge of Armed Forces officers according to law.

12. To utilize the Armed Forces to defend the country's sovereignty and the integrity of the territory. As an exception when the regular means to preserve domestic peace and public peace and security, the president of the Republic can utilize the Armed Forces for this purpose. The Armed Forces' actions shall be limited to the time and the extent strictly necessary to restore order. This action shall cease as soon as this goal has been attained. The president of the Republic shall keep the Legislative Assembly posted on such actions. The Assembly can at any time order the cessation of these special measures. Anyway, the president of the Republic shall present to the Legislative Assembly a detailed report on the Armed Forces actions within 15 days after the termination of the special measures.

17. To lead, organize, and preserve the Civilian National Police to maintain peace, tranquillity, and public order and security, both in urban and rural areas, with strict consideration of the human rights and under the leadership of civilian authorities. The Civilian National Police and the Armed Forces shall be independent from each other and be in different ministries.

18. To lead, organize, and preserve the state intelligence agency.

19. To determine yearly the number of Armed Forces and Civilian National Police effectives. This number shall be a reasonable one.

Article 7. Add a new paragraph to Article 172, as follows:

The Judicial Branch will be assigned an annual income of not less than 6 percent of the government's budget.

Article 8. Amend the second parragraph of Article 174 as follows:

The Constitutional Chamber [Sala de lo Constitucinal] comprises five judges appointed by the Legislative Assembly. The Constitutional Chamber president will be appointed by the Legislative Assembly each time Supreme Court justices are appointed. The Constitutional Chamber president will also be Supreme Court and judicial branch president.

Article 9. Amend Article 180 as follows:

Article (180). The minimum requirements for an appointment as the justice of the peace are: A Salvadoran citizen, holding full civic rights and having had these rights for at least the last three years preceding the appointment, a lawyer, not a member of the clergy, over 21 years of age, morally outstanding and very competent. The justice of the peace will be part of the judicial branch.

When the National Judicial Council deems so, the post of justice of the peace may be held by persons who are not lawyers and who are not career service members. In such cases their appointment shall be for 1 year.

Article 10. Amend item No. 9 under Article 182 to read as follows:

9. Appoint judges to the Appellate Court, Lower Court, and Justices of the Peace from a list of three candidates presented by the National Judicial Council. Appoint coroners and court employees, dismiss them, deal with their resignations, and grant them leave without pay.

Article 11. Amend Article 186 to read as follows:

Article (186). A career service is established in the judicial branch.

Justices to the Supreme Court of Justice shall be elected by the Legislative Assembly for a 9-year period, but one third of the judges shall be replaced every three years. The justices will be fully entitled to a renewed appointment provided that as each period ends the Legislative Assembly does not decide otherwise or in the event they are fired for previously agreed, legally-established specific causes. A minimum two-thirds affirmative vote by elected deputies is needed for all the above cases.

The election of the justices of the Supreme Court of Justice will be made from a list of candidates presented by the National Judicature Council as specified by the law, half of which will be members of the organizations representing the lawyers of El Salvador and including the most outstanding members.

The justices of the Appellate Court, the justices of the Lower Court, and the justices of the peace covered by career service will enjoy stability in their jobs.

The law must provide the justices with protection so they can freely exercise their duties in an impartial manner and without any outside influence in the affairs they are handling. They must be provided with the means that will guarantee them a fair salary and a standard of living adequate to the responsibility of their positions.

The law will regulate the requirements and the manner of joining the career service, the promotions, transfers, and disciplinary actions of the officials included in the service and other issues pertaining to the career service.

Article 12 - Reform Article 188 as follows:

Article (188): The position of justice or judge is incompatible with the practice of the legal profession or the profession of notary, and with the professions of employees in the other branches of state, except for temporary teaching or diplomatic positions.

Article 13 - Reform Article 191 as follows:

Article (191): The Office of the Attorney General will be headed by the prosecutor general of the Republic, the attorney general of the Republic, the national attorney for the defense of human rights, and other employees established by the law.

Article 14 - Reform Article 192 as follows:

Article (192): The prosecutor general of the Republic, the attorney general of the Republic, and the national attorney for the defense of human rights will be elected by a qualified majority of two thirds of the elected deputies in the Legislative Assembly. They will hold their posts for three years and can be reelected.

The requirements for the post of prosecutor general of the Republic or attorney general of the Republic are the same as for the post of justice of the first appeals court.

The law will establish the requirements that the national attorney for the defense of human rights must meet.

Article 15 - Add a new ordinal, which will be the third, reform ordinals two and three, which become ordinal four, and eliminate ordinal nine of Article 193, as follows:

2. Promote legal action officially or on request in defense of the law.

3. Direct crime investigation, particularly the criminal actions that fall under the penal jurisdiction. To this effect, the Crime Investigation Organization [Organismo de Investigacion del Delito] will operate under the authority of the Attorney General's Office, as set forth by the law. This does not limit the autonomy of the judge to investigate the incidents that are presented to him. The Crime Investigation Organization will promptly carry out its task in accordance with any request made by a judge, as stated above.

4. Promote penal action officially or on request of an interested party.

Article 16 - A new article, following Article 193, is hereby included; and it states as follows:

Article (194) - The national attorney for the defense of human rights will be responsible for promoting human rights and watching that they are respected. He will be able to have permanent departmental and regional representatives.

The following are his duties:

1. Watch for respect and guarantee of human rights.

2. Investigate officially or on request the cases of violation of human rights.
3. Assist the alleged victims of human rights violations.
4. Present legal or administrative writs to protect human rights.
5. Watch over the situation of people deprived of their freedom. He will be notified of all the arrests that are made and will make sure that the legal limitations of administrative arrests are observed.
6. Carry out inspections, when he deems it convenient, in order to ensure respect for human rights.
7. Supervise the actions of the government towards the citizens.
8. Endorse reforms before the state organizations for the betterment of human rights.
9. Issue his rulings on bills that may have an effect on human rights.
10. Promote and propose the measures that he deems necessary in order to prevent human rights violations.
11. Make public or private conclusions and recommendations.
12. Prepare and publish reports.
13. Develop a permanent program of activities regarding human rights awareness and respect.
14. Other duties as set forth by the constitution or the law.

Article. Amend the enunciation of Chapter VII, Paragraph VI, in the following terms:

CHAPTER VII

SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL

Article 18. Amend Article 208 in the following terms:

Article (208). - The Supreme Electoral Tribunal is the highest administrative and jurisdictional authority on electoral issues. No appeals will be admitted concerning its decisions, except when revisions must be made within the same organization—in the cases thus established by the law, and the cases established by the constitution for violations against the same.

The law will determine how the Supreme Electoral Tribunal will be comprised, and the law will make sure that it is comprised in such a way that a party, or coalition of parties, does not predominate. Also, the law will make sure that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal is comprised of members who have no party afiliation, and who are elected by two-thirds of the deputies elected to the Legislative Assembly.

Article 19. Amend Article 209 in the following terms:

Article (209).- The law will establish the necessary organizations to receive, tally, and supervise the ballots, and other activities concerning an election and the law will guarantee that these organizations are made up in such a way that a party or coalition of parties does not predominate.

Contending political parties will have the right to supervise all the electoral process.

Article 20. Amend Article 211 in the following terms:

Article (211).- The Armed Forces is a permanent institution at the nation's service. It is obedient, professional, apolitical, and non-deliberative.

Article 21. Amend Article 212 in the following terms:

Article (212). - The Armed Forces has the mission of defending the state's sovereignty and the the territory's integrity. The president of the Republic is authorized to use the Armed Forces in special circumstances to maintain internal peace, according to the constitution's provisions.

The highest government organizations mentioned in Article 86 are authorized to use the Armed Forces to implement the regulations they have adopted, within their respective constitutional areas of responsibility, to enforce the Constitution.

The Armed Forces will cooperate in public benefit activities upon instructions from the executive branch, and it will help the population in case of a national disaster.

Article 22. Amend Article 213 in the following terms:

Article (213). - The Armed Forces are part of the executive branch and it is subordinate to the authority of the president of the Republic, in his role as Commander General. Its structure, juridical system, doctrine, organization, and functions are defined by the law, the regulations, and the special provisions adopted by the president of the Republic.

Article 23: Article 216 is amended as follows:

Article (216). - A military jurisdiction is established. To try purely military crimes and misdemeanors, special procedures and courts will exist, based on the law. Military jurisdiction, as a special system with regard to justice as a whole, will limit itself to hearing strictly military crimes and misdemeanors committed while on duty, being understood that such actions are those that exclusively have a bearing on a strictly military legal interest.

For strictly military crimes and misdemeanors, Armed Forces members on active duty are under military jurisdiction.

Article 24. Article 217 is amended as follows:

Article (217). - The manufacturing, import, export, commerce, ownership, and bearing of weapons, ammunitions, explosives, and similar articles can only be carried out with the authorization and under the direct supervision of the executive branch, in the area of defense.

A special law will regulate this matter.

Transitory Dispositions

First. The National Attorney for the Defense of Human Rights [Procurador Nacional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos], created by this decree, is to be chosen within the 90 days following the ratification of the constitutional amendment by the Legislative Assembly that will be installed on 1 May 1991.

Second. Secondary legislation on electoral matters will be amended within 90 days following the ratification of the constitutional amendment by the Legislative Assembly that will be installed on 1 May 1991. The new Supreme Electoral Tribunal is to be chosen within 30 days following the enactment of this legislative amendment.

Third. In order to abide by the terms established in paragraph fourth of Article 172, the budget allocation will be effective in a gradual, progressive, and proportional manner until it is fully implemented, within a period no greater than four years, counted from the moment this decree enters into force.

The process to restore peace continues with strong steps and the government reaffirms its determination to continue advancing toward reaching peace and national reconciliation.

Government of the Republic of El Salvador

Government Denies Attempts To Break Up Talks

PA3004170191 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] During the last few hours, by way of its official dialogue commission, the Salvadoran Government has reiterated that the negotiating process is irreversible and is showing satisfactory results. Dr. Oscar Santamaria rejected the notion that the government commission in Mexico ever tried to cause a breakup of the talks. He said that, on the contrary, the members of the official delegation were always willing to look at ways to open the path for national peace.

New Air Force Commander Reportedly Appointed

PA0105023891 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 30 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Colonel Hector L. Lobo will assume the duties of Salvadoran Air Force (FAS) commander, replacing General Rafael Villamariona, who will retire from active duty and who will be trasferred to the foreign service, according to a general order of the Defense Ministry.

The changes of command in the FAS are the most important of the general order, which will begin circulating today. These changes will go into effect on 1 May, according to military sources who asked to remain anonymous.

Our sources also reported that Col. Manfredo Koeningsberg will assume the duties of FAS deputy commander, and Col. Juan Antonio Martinez Varela will be appointed as Comalapa Air Base commander, replacing Col. Napoleon Conde Vasquez.

The FAS will eliminate from its chain of command the command post of Ilopango Air Base, which was occupied by Col. Koeningsberg.

Our sources said that there will be other minor changes, but speculated that the general order for June could include promotions to the rank of general and trasfers of officers and chiefs of military garrisons.

Regarding other changes, it was reported that these were considered as minor, and it was stressed that the general order for June could include promotions to the rank of general and changes in military garrisons. [as published]

Our sources stated that the work of Gen. Villamariona is considered as "valuable" and that his retirement is due to the completion of his active duty in the Armed Forces. Both Villamariona and Lobo are veteran experienced pilots.

Rebel Sabotage Forces Possible Power Rate Hike

PA3004171691 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission, CEL, is studying the possibility of increasing electricity rates because its income has been reduced because of guerrilla sabotage of the power grid. CEL President Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez said that the decision will be made by the Economy Ministry; however, he said that there is an urgent need to make periodic adjustments to the rates because of CEL's high power generating costs.

CEL is rationing power for five to six hours a day all over the country because of increased guerrilla sabotage of the power grid over the past few days. CEL sources said that there is a 55-percent power deficit, which affects large areas in the country's eastern, central, and western sectors, despite the use of emergency power plants which burn 115,000 gallons of diesel and 110,000 gallons of bunker fuel per day.

Guatemala

URNG's Moran, Monsanto Comment on Dialogue

PA3004201991 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Interview with URNG (Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity) Commanders Rolando Moran and Pablo Monsanto, who attended the dialogue between the government and guerrillas, by unidentified reporters in Mexico City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What are the results of the meeting? Please describe the main points in the agreement reached during the talks?

[Moran] The talks were extensive, profound, serious, and were held within a climate of solidarity, understanding and mutual respect. We reached two basic conclusions, which are important because I would say that [words indistinct] be clarified. The objective of this meeting, which has just taken place, was not to sign a peace agreement or anything of that nature. The objective was to establish, as we did, the guidelines for the negotiating process to reach a final agreement on the basis to attain peace in Guatemala and solve the economic and social problems afflicting our people.

[Reporter] Have you proposed [words indistinct] of the Army?

[Moran] No.

[Reporter] What have you proposed in that regard?

[Moran] That the Army comply with its duties. The Army's official duties are to defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity; these are the duties assigned to any army as a democratic institution in a democratic government.

[Reporter] You have proposed several constitutional amendments. Specifically, what did you propose?

[Monsanto] We are convinced that the Guatemalan Constitution does not permit the people's democratic participation. That is one one thing that Guatemalan society lacks; there are no democratic institutions. We must create them. To the extent that we are capable of [word indistinct] institutions, there will be more democracy in the country, and the country will be modernized. The more democratic institutions, the more modern the country will be. A country without institutions, a country that depends on one, two, or three institutions is a country that will not progress and that will reflect the level of poverty, not only material, but in general, that the Guatemalan society has.

That is why we feel that the Guatemalan Constitution requires major reforms. On this occasion we will not mention specifically what aspects of the Constitution should be reformed. However, we feel that first the Constitution's character must be changed. It is an antiguerrilla Constitution. It was drafted with an antiguerrilla spirit. Second, we believe that the Constitution must be amended to guarantee the Guatemalan people's participation in the Guatemalan state's political decisions. Third, we believe it must be amended so that the Guatemalan people can also have access to the country's wealth. Under the current Constitution, it is difficult for the Guatemalan people to have institutions and mechanisms that will let them to have a share of the wealth that can be created in Guatemala.

[Reporter] Do you think that—as it occurred in Colombia—it is possible for the rebel groups to finally join democratic life with political, partisan, and direct participation in order to present your plan directly and openly—not clandestinely—and so that the people can hear [words indistinct]?

[Monsanto] First of all, we want to make it clear that this plan has nothing to do with Colombia. We have clearly said that the URNG will negotiate as long as the negotiations produce the changes in Guatemala that we [words indistinct]. If the negotiations do not produce those changes, we will keep fighting.

We are not trying to solve [word indistinct] problems. We do not want to join society legally to participate in a system and government we disagree with. We are willing to [words indistinct] amendments. Only then will we lay down our weapons and demobilize. Now that we are participating in negotiations, we believe there are possibilities of advancing through negotiations to produce those changes. If those changes occur, there will definitely be peace in Guatemala. If those changes do not occur through negotiations, peace will not be possible. Peace does not depend on the goodwill of President Serrano or of the URNG guerrillas. War does not depend on our will, but on the specific conditions [words indistinct] of injustice in the country. That situation must change. Of course, we will not join society until the situation changes. The negotiations should lay down the foundations to begin making the changes the country needs, so that we can join that process. However, as long as those foundations do not exist, the URNG's incorporation into society is impossible.

[Reporter] What was the main obstacle during the meeting that lasted several days?

[Monsanto] I think the main problem was that the Guatemalan Government uses different logic than the URNG. We could say that we have opposing positions. The Guatemalan Government's position calls for the demobilization of the rebel forces in order to reach agreements to solve the country's problems. The URNG believes that agreements must be reached to solve the country's problems in order to sign a peace agreement. Therefore, since we have conflicting positions, we had to find points of similarity which we could begin discussing and start advancing. That is [word indistinct]. I believe this was the most positive aspect of this meeting: finding points of coincidence starting from two different views. We will begin discussing and seeking solutions to the problems; we will reach agreements that will be implemented. This will make it possible to attain peace in Guatemala.

[Reporter] What was the attitude of the military representatives during the meeting?

[Monsanto] We would describe their attitude as positive. They were open, broad-minded, and receptive in expressing their views. We believe that the fact that they attended the meeting gave us the opportunity to meet each other personally ...[changes thought] we had been clashing with some of them in various places. Now we

are participating in meetings in which we can discuss the country's problems not with weapons, but through arguments and through the different views that each one has on how to solve the Guatemalan problems.

Monsanto Interviewed on Talks

PA3004155091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2154 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Report bu Hugo Sergio; "Exclusive" for LA PRENSA GRAFICA]

[Text] NOTIMEX [No dateline as received]—Without first demilitarizing Guatemalan society, "it is impossible to build a functional and participative democracy," Guerrilla Commander Pablo Monsanto told NOTIMEX, shortly after signing the "Accord of Mexico" with the government.

"When we talk of demilitarization, we are not asking [words indistinct] to redefine functions of the military institution within a society in relation to the role it must play in that state," Monsanto, one of the four commanders of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), said.

At the conclusion of the first 3-day meeting between the government and the guerrillas at a Mexico City hotel, Monsanto noted that it is not possible to talk of peace without discussing the issue of the Armed Forces. "There have been armed clashes in the past 30 years. Because of that, over 150,000 people are dead or missing, and society as a whole has been affected by terror and repression. In the upcoming meetings—which are to begin in the second half of May, according to the agenda agreed upon by the two sides—the discussion of demilitarization, which entails a purge in the Army, becomes imperative," Monsanto noted. Without doing away with impunity and punishing the human rights' violators—he added—a democratic country cannot be built. It is impossible if human rights are violated or if state security forces do as they please.

The URNG feels that another aspect of demilitarization involves putting an end to forced recruitment. Monsanto, who is also the leader of the Rebel Armed Forces—a group within URNG—said the draft quota "is being reached in a violent manner, through raids in zones controlled by the Army," with "young men being taken as prisoners."

For demilitarization to take place, he added, the elimination of "clandestine jails and of all the Army's intelligence and terrorist methods" is mandatory. Monsanto noted the need to end the Army's interference in the economy, politics, education, and running of the state. He said that the Army has traditionally played a key role in the economy and maintained an unjust system through violent means, while the majority lives in poverty.

Monsanto, who has devoted 30 years to the guerrilla struggle, said that the lack of political institutions is one of the major problems in Guatemalan society. "To modernize the country, we must democratize it and to do that we must create democratic institutions that legally allow the people to participate in economic, political, and social decision-making," Monsanto, a founder of the first guerrilla group in 1963, said.

Honduras

Electricity Sector Workers Begin Strike 30 Apr

PA3004204991 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1834 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 30 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The 3,500 workers of the National Enterprise for Electric Power (ENEE) began an indefinite strike today against the government's plans to dismiss employees, increase electricity rates, and privatize the industry. ENEE President Gladys Lanza announced that the strike began at 1200 (1800 GMT) after direct negotiations with management and top government officials failed.

The union is demanding an agreement to guarantee labor stability, reverse the government's intention to increase electricity rates by 65 percent, and cancel official privatization plans. So far, authorities have only agreed to not privatize ENEE. However, they have noted that a personnel reduction and an increase in electricity rates are "necessary measures that cannot be postponed" to improve the financial situation of ENEE, which has a foreign debt of more than $700 million.

Official sources warned that the strike will be declared "illegal," and that the union faces the risk of losing its legal status. However, Lanza stressed that "we are prepared to face the reprisals and only hope that President Rafael Callejas and the Army will think twice before acting and will not violate the Constitution."

Lanza added that "this strike is also against international credit institutions that are manipulating the government into canceling its debt, at the social and economic expense of most Hondurans." The ENEE strike adds up to recent measures adopted by labor movements against the government's economic adjustment plan which they claim has increased poverty levels in the country.

* CODEH Accuses Armed Forces of 75 Deaths

91CA0100J Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 7 Mar 91 p 44

[Text] Yesterday, the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras (CODEH) claimed that 75 of the 85 homicides due to abuse of authority and suspicions during 1990 were committed by the Armed Forces. Eight were perpetrated with private individuals as accomplices, and eight by unidentified persons, but with the state regarded as the main suspect.

A statistical report on human rights violations in the country during 1990 also indicates that, during that

period, five political assassinations were committed: one by the Armed Forces, another by the government, and three by unidentified persons.

It adds that five criminals were also assassinated: one by the Armed Forces, and the rest by unidentified persons. As for the 118 persons who suffered personal assaults, in 83 of the cases the military institution is held responsible.

The table also reveals that 18 persons were subjected to attacks on their property, 96 were tortured, 53 sustained injuries, and 357 were detained illegally. There were 1,375 cases of disrespect for judicial guarantees, 34 domicile searches, 28 attacks on freedom of speech, 126 attacks on freedom of assembly, and two restrictions on movement and residence. According to the report, "In all the violations, it was proved that those responsible were the military."

Right to Information
Statistics on Civil Rights Violations
Honduras 1990

Type of Violation	Responsible Authority						
	Totals	FFAA[1]	OME[2]	GC[3]	OC[4]	[5]	NR[6]
Homicides due to abuse of authority, suspicion	85	75	-	-	-	2	8
Political assassinations	5	1	-	1	-	-	3
Assassinations of criminals	5	1	-	-	-	-	4
Assaults on persons	(+6)118	83	-	2	29	-	10
Attacks on property	(+10)18	18	-	1	1	-	8
Torture	96	92	-	1	-	-	3
Injuries	(+4)53	53	2	2	-	-	-
Illegal detentions	(+2)357	348	1	7	-	-	3
Administrative detentions	(+10)7	17	-	-	-	-	-
Forced disappearances	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Attacks on honor	(+4)11	5	-	6	-	2	2
Disrespect for judicial guarantees	1,375	102	-	1,273	-	-	-
Domicile searches	(+?)34	34	-	-	-	-	-3
Attacks on freedom of speech	(+11)28	17	1	19	-	-	2
Attacks on freedom of assembly	(+15)126	98	-	35	-	1	7
Restrictions on movement and residence	(+7)2	8	-	1	-	-	-
Denial of legal capacity	1	-	-	1	-	-	-

Glossary:

1. Armed forces of Honduras
2. External Military Organization (USA troops)
3. Civilian government
4. Clandestine organization
5. Private accomplice
6. Unidentified (State is the main suspect)

Plus figures within parentheses indicate incidents with an undetermined number of victims.

* Rise in Family Market Basket Prices Reported

91CA0100I Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 6 Mar 91 p 2

["NEXOS Survey Corner: Who's Afraid of Free Trade?"]

[Text] Despite the fact that high-ranking government officials have explained that grains would not undergo a price hike due to shortages, a unit of beans (five pounds) neared a price of 10 lempiras yesterday.

This rise was officially admitted yesterday by the Ministry of Economy and Commerce's Domestic Commerce office, which compiles maximum and minimum price indexes for basic consumer items. The majority have shot up during the past few hours.

Yesterday at some shopping centers, a pound of beans was priced at 1.90 lempiras, while classified rice was selling for 1.80 lempiras a pound, according to the official source.

Wheat flour exceeded its normal price of 1.00 lempiras, rising to 0.10 centavos more.

According to the economy and commerce survey, meat also underwent price hikes, to the extent that a pound of chicken was selling for 3.75 lempiras.

The price of pork chops rose to 7.49, and that of beef chops stood at 4.80; while beef and pork cuts were priced at 7.05 and 8.45 lempiras, respectively.

The Economy and Commerce Ministry's price index disclosed an incredible fact: whereas vegetable oil is being sold by the National Supplier of Staple Products (Banasupro) for 8.00 lempiras, it costs 6.80 lempiras at shopping centers.

A unit of sweet red peppers was selling yesterday for about 0.70 centavos; a pound of potatoes cost as much as 1.55; and tomatoes were selling for 1.65 a pound.

Only in the case of corn, which was posted at 54 centavos a pound over the weekend, was there a reduction, of 2 centavos, according to the domestic commerce office price list.

The following is a comparison of weekend prices with the higher ones posted yesterday by the Ministry of Economy and Commerce:

	Current	Former	Difference
Red beans	1.90/lb	1.50	+0.40
Rice	0.52/lb	0.54	-0.02
Wheat flour	1.10/lb	1.00	+0.10
Chicken	3.75/lb	3.40	+0.35
Pork chops	7.49/lb	6.50	+0.99
Beef chops	4.80/lb	4.50	+0.30
Pork cuts	8.45/lb	7.00	+1.45
Beef cuts	7.05/lb	6.00	+1.05
Potatoes	1.55/lb	1.30	+0.25

Nicaragua

Ortega 'Virulent,' 'Aggressive' Toward Chamorro

PA3004171791 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Apr 91 p 10

[Report by Felix Navarrete]

[Text] Speaking with a local newspaper yesterday, former President Daniel Ortega charged that President Violeta Chamorro's properties "were not honestly obtained nor were they the product of the sweat of her brow." Ortega was thus reacting to remarks the president made to a Sandinist weekly, appealing for a sense of honesty and justice to help satisfy the demands of thousands of Nicaraguans whose homes were unjustly confiscated.

Ortega's response to Chamorro is his most "virulent" and "aggressive" during the one year she has been in office, and is prompted by a bill submitted by a group of UNO [National Opposition Union] deputies to repeal Laws 85 and 86. This situation has caused "resentment" and "uneasiness" among thousands of Nicaraguans who have benefited under those laws.

The former president said yesterday in an arrogant and categorical tone that he will not return the home in which he lives. Ortega says that he now owns the house and described President Chamorro's comments, on the problems of owning property in Nicaragua, as an act of revenge.

Although Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo said the bill would not have a majority in the Assembly, Sandinists have taken advantage of the situation to threaten the government with social instability that may jeopardize the implementation of the adjustment plan that has been in effect since last March.

Local political circles questioned yesterday by LA PRENSA believed Ortega's "virulent and defensive" language contrasted directly with the president's calm, precise, and conciliatory tone. Chamorro voiced her hope that honesty and justice will prevail on the matter of returning property unfairly seized by the Sandinist regime, which has been legally requested by thousands of people.

They also believe that Ortega's bellicose and offensive language goes beyond the limits of general respect and sets a "dangerous" precedent. These public statements could lead to a strong break between the government and the Sandinist opposition during a difficult time for the country as "economic reactivation" is being implemented.

It seems that the Sandinist strategy is to maintain their "privileges" at the cost of exchanging their party's support for the government's economic adjustment plan," a political observer told LA PRENSA. [quotation marks as published]

The observers voiced concern over Ortega's "violent reaction" to the president's remarks on the return of properties. Some believe this confirms the former president's endorsement of the Sandinist government's handing out of land during the April 1990 transition period, and that he does not regret that action.

Some foreign journalists felt it odd that EL SEMANARIO published the entire interview with Chamorro when she appealed to the honesty of those illegally occupying houses so that the thirst for justice of those thousands of Nicaraguans whose homes were confiscated can be satisfied.

EL SEMANARIO is headed by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, leader of the Sandinist faction, and Deputy Edmundo Jarquin, both of whom belong to what has

been described as the "moderate sector" of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front].

A political leader, who requested anonymity, told LA PRENSA that if Ortega moves out of the house he is residing in, many guerrilla commanders and former top Sandinist officials would have to do the same. These people bought properties at ridiculously low prices and the true owners are currently demanding the return of those properties through the Office of the Attorney for Justice.

The political leader said: "Should Ortega surrender the house, he would prove the Sandinists' ability to correct their mistakes," and improve the Sandinists' "ruined image" abroad.

Diplomatic sources commented that nowhere in the world would a former president stage a public fight over "something which in everyone's opinion does not belong to him," because it would be considered a public shame, especially considering that presidents must keep their affairs strictly legal.

ONUCA Verifies Sandinist SAM Inventories

PA3004184591

[Editorial Report] Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 30 April broadcasts a one and one-half minute report on statements by Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock, director of public and foreign affairs for the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, denying reports that SAM's [surface-to-air missile] have fallen into the hands of Salvadoran guerrillas. The report says in part: "Following a meeting with ONUCA [United Nations Observer Group in Central America] delegates in Nicaragua and military attaches from various countries, Wheelock said that the EPS' SAM-16 missile inventory is complete." The report quotes Wheelock as saying: "If Soviet missiles have turned up in the hands of Salvadoran guerrillas, those missiles are not from Nicaragua."

On the same subject, San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 30 April broadcasts a one and one-half minute report datelined Managua quoting a Nicaraguan Defense Ministry announcement that ONUCA's Mission Chief Colonel Jose Gustavo Lascano "verified the inventory of portable SAM-16 missiles that the EPS has in Managua." The report adds that "Lascano verified the Soviet-made missiles, also known as Igla 1-M [SA-14], at a military base in Managua before the military attaches from the USSR, Cuba, France, the United States, Guatemala, and Venezuela." The report goes on to say that "according to the Defense Ministry, the diplomats and Col. Lascano found the inventory complete and in accordance to the on-site verification made by EPS and Soviet commissions." The report concludes by quoting the Defense Ministry announcement: "The fact that the inventory is complete proves that accusations against the Army, to the effect that it had supplied these types of weapons to Salvadoran guerrillas a few weeks ago, are false."

Panama

PDC's Romero Views Government-PRD 'Pact'

PA3004154991 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 29 Apr 91 p2

[Report by Eric Arce]

[Text] Ivan Romero, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], has noted: "Vice presidents are merely spare tires used when the main one fails. Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon has been slandered, vilified, and accused of being a spy and of staging coups d'etat. Therefore, it is difficult for him, at least for a few months, to attend cabinet meetings and hobnob with the very people who betrayed him."

Romero was thus referring to a possible pact between the government alliance and the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD]. He added that such a pact has already been reached and that he reported it a few weeks ago as a pact with the devil of Panamanian politics. Now, Ernesto Perez Balladares is confirming it and, although he termed it a social pact, it is a political pact aimed at getting the gray brains [of the Noriega dictatorship] released from jail. These brains need to go back to planning a way to seize power, to militarize it, and resume their stealing." [quotation mark as published] He added: "The PDC members have been reporting all this since we heard the revelations made in the United States by CNN in November. We reported that this pact was underway in respective letters to the Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] president and to Guillermo Ford. We told them about an incident in Electoral Circuit 4-4 where the mayor, a Molirena member, had dismissed four PDC mayors with plans to replace them with PRD members. These PRD members immediately began to campaign for their party's legislative candidate in that circuit. Since there were no replies to our letters, we reported the situation via several media."

When asked to give his opinion about the national economic policy, the PDC secretary general said he supports the groups that claim the policy is not in good hands. He then pointed out that "a good example is the price of beef. According to the economic plan, certain measures should have been taken so that by next October the price of beef would be free of constraint. In October, there is always an abundance of beef, and the price is expected to drop. However, the price will have to be much higher than it was in the dry season. Now there is a shortage of the product, and this is due to the lack of planning by the Ministry of Planning and the MIDA [Ministry of Agricultural Development]."

EL SIGLO also asked PDC Legislator Gloria Moreno de Lopez about the possibility of a pact between the government and the PRD, and she answered: "If Mr. Endara has made these statements, he has confirmed that he is a big traitor to the people. When Ernesto Perez Balladares spoke of a rapprochement with the Endara administration, he said

that the problem with this government was that it had been born of an invasion and was therefore illegitimate, and that it was not a government resulting from the 7 May 1989 elections. Therefore, I do not understand how Endara can even read a note from the PRD concerning rapprochement. If he is truly just and respects the promises he made to the Panamanian people, what he should do is to try to reconstruct what he destroyed as a result of the poor advice he gets from the PRD members he keeps as his advisers at the Presidency."

Argentina

Economy Minister Continues Tour, Addresses IMF

PY0105015291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Apr 91 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN) Washington—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo yesterday asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to give "unstinting support for Argentina" and stressed the Carlos Menem administration's commitment to "transforming the country into an economy open to the world." On the international scene he warned against real interest rates staying firm, thus making investment and growth more difficult. He pointed to the "marked deceleration" of growth rates since 1988, describing their corollary as more inflation and unemployment.

In his speech to the IMF, Cavallo warned that this situation would have especially negative effects on the more indebted developing economies. He said that Argentina had begun an "irreversible" process of adjustment in 1983 and had reduced its foreign debt to banks by 20 percent last year thanks to privatization. As a result he earlier forecast that Argentina would be able to start 1992 with its debts settled.

Cavallo also pointed out that Argentina had reduced its average import duties to nine percent and had freed its exchange markets, as well as making the currency convertible.

Speaking on behalf of Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay as well as Argentina, Cavallo told the IMF that Chile had even managed to attract fresh private-sector loans while Bolivia continued to combine growth with stability. But Peru was a "special case," he said.

Cavallo, whose return to Buenos Aires is set for this morning, is in the United States capital to seek a standby loan of 600 to 1.2 billion dollars. He met IMF Director-General Michel Camdessus to this end yesterday. The minister was accompanied by Central Bank president Roque Fernandez, Treasury Undersecretary Saul Bouer and Argentine debt negotiator Daniel Marx.

When Cavallo does return today, he will have to resolve such delicate questions as the 100 million dollars of fiscal credits owed by Firestone Rubber and Tyre Company and the privatization of the Urquiza line. Firestone executives and Tax Bureau (DGI) officials are due to meet on the issue this week.

'Pleased' With Tour

PY3004190191 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1304 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Apr (TELAM)—According to Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo's spokesman, Adrian Gomez, the letter of intent that seeks a standby [preceding word in English] credit worth about $1.2 billion may be viewed in June by the IMF. Gomez did not give any details on the negotiations with the IMF, but he confirmed that IMF missions will continue to visit Argentina to monitor the accounts, "as usual", until the IMF board meets.

Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo arrived today at 1150 at the Ezeiza International Airport at the end of an extensive tour that took him to Spain, Italy, and the United States. Cavallo left the airport in a car that took him to his house. En route to his house, he phoned President Carlos Menem to inform him of his tour and his meetings abroad.

Gomez said that the economy minister is pleased with his trip, particularly about a report published by the NEW YORK TIMES, which adopts a cautious stance but which states: "there is the slight hope that Argentina will economically recover." Gomez said: "The economy minister is pleased with the overall tone of the report because it is encouraging."

Answering a journalist's question, Gomez said: "The IMF board may meet in June to decide whether or not to approve a standby loan for Argentina." Gomez also said the economy minister has no plans to hold a news conference this afternoon. He said: "It depends on the outcome of a meeting he will hold with the president."

Police Discover Counterfeit Dollar Print Shop

PY0105000391 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1557 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Summary] Mendoza, 30 Apr (NA)—The provincial police have dismantled an organization that printed dollar bills and seized $450,000 worth of forged 100 dollar bills. The forged bills were remarkable replicas of the real U.S. currency. The police arrested five people, including the owner of the printing shop, Alfredo Quitapacce.

New Supreme Justice Court Judge Appointed

PY3004192791 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0233 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (NA)—Commercial Appellate Court Judge Antonio Boggiano has been appointed as one of the judges at the Supreme Court of Justice. He replaces Judge Julio Oyhanarte, who resigned. Boggiano is a tenured professor at the National University of Buenos Aires and is the Argentine representative to the International Commercial Law Commission at the United Nations.

Salonia Sworn In as Education, Culture Minister

PY3004143891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1525 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Apr (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has sworn in Antonio Salonia as minister

of education and culture, which is the name of the portfolio he will hold after the approval of the new ministries law.

The private ceremony took place at the presidential office in the presence of Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa and other Government House officials.

Salonia said that the ceremony, which was held in keeping with the new ministries law, was "formal." This new law created the Ministry of Justice, thus changing the name of the previous Ministry of Education and Justice.

Bolivia

Senator Says Antidrug Operations Depend on DEA

PY3004181391 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 23 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] The activities of the Umopar [Mobile Units for Rural Areas] in Chapare are dependent on the fuel, helicopter, and food provided by the DEA because Umopar has no government support. This information was released by Senator Jose Luis Carvajal Palma, chairman of the Senate Development and Corporations Committee [Comision de Desarollo y Corporaciones del Senado Nacional], following a visit that he and other lawmakers paid to the Umopar unit in Chimore.

Carvajal said that the commander of the Umopar unit in Chimore reported to him that 300 soldiers stationed there are not enough to fulfill their mission, which is to fight drug trafficking. "They say that this number should be increased to at least 1,000. With this number they would be able to investigate all the trafficking rings in the region."

The concern expressed by the Umopar members is justified because government officials have not fulfilled the promises that they made to the Umopar personnel, who have been abandoned to their fate.

During a visit to the Umopar unit, former Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco promised life insurance for the "Leopards," but this has not yet been implemented.

Social Defense Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico, also visited the area. "He made several promises that have never been implemented. Consequently they are working under unsuitable conditions and essentially rely on the DEA. This is inconceivable. We should, as a country, provide the support needed by the Umopar so that it can properly fulfill its mission, or leave all antidrug work to the DEA. A choice must be made. Furthermore, I believe that the promises made by government officials must be fulfilled, particularly those made by the Interior Ministry."

He confirmed that the DEA is positively supporting the work of the Umopar.

"Umopar is doing its job in Chapare thanks to the DEA helicopter and thanks to the fuel and food that the DEA provides, allowing them to fulfill their duties. The operations have been conducted according to a program designed by Umopar. It would have been impossible to implement the program without DEA support," he said.

The lack of fulfillment of the promises made by the Interior Ministry has caused disillusionment among Umopar members, who are not working efficiently. "To overcome this situation, the government must fulfill the promises to provide life insurance, more troops, and other matters."

Despite the limitations on the Umopar, in one of its most recent operations it captured a man who reported on the activities of the Umopar to the drug traffickers of the region. This infiltrator hindered and harmed Umopar activities because he reported all Umopar movements to the drug traffickers in Chapare.

Antinarcotics Unit Aware of Increased Trafficking

PY3004224591 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 24 Apr 91 p 7

[Text] The Special Antinarcotics Force [FELCN] is in a state of alert over possible Bolivian connections with the increasing activity of international drug trafficking gangs.

According to police sources, these traffickers have expanded the complex network that links the cocaine producing centers to the U.S. and European consumer centers.

Rene Torres, acting under secretary of Social Defense, has asserted that the FELCN is in a state of alert following reports that trafficking "bridges" [puentes] are operating in La Paz and other Bolivian cities.

"The illegal drug trade uses various methods," Torres said, adding that the FELCN is closely following and checking reports on drug trade channels in the country.

The Colombian police have reported that traffickers have created "new routes to transport drugs into Europe." These routes cross Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The reports point out that Colombian, Peruvian, and Bolivian drug traffickers "maintain their hegemony over the drug trafficking business."

Information Minister Mario Rueda has repeatedly reported to the press that Colombian drug traffickers have invaded Beni department and established themselves there. The minister said that trafficking gangs have already clashed with Rural Area Police Patrol Units (Umopar) patrols.

The government thus admitted the presence of foreign traffickers in the country and acknowledged their links with the trade of cocaine and cocaine byproducts to the European market.

Reports on the imminent expansion of the drug market were made known during the meeting of police chiefs of

the 33 countries [not further identified], Interpol [International Criminal Police Organization], and representatives of specialized organizations, which is being held in Bogota. Social Defense Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico, National Police Commander Jaime Cespedes, and FELCN Commander Elias Gutierrez are representing Bolivia at the meeting.

Torres said that although it has been announced that all mid-level FELCN personnel would be dismissed, the organization considers these reports to be "a warning against ending the struggle against trafficking."

Peasant Organization Warns of Clashes

PY3004191591 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] The Single Trade Union Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers has warned that military maneuvers in coca-producing zones may provoke confrontations between coca planters and Army personnel.

Dina Monte Villa, leader of the peasant organization, has said that joint maneuvers between U.S. advisers and Bolivian Army troops could give rise to situations in which abuses are committed against the peasants living in those areas.

Peruvian Shining Path Presence Ruled Out

PY3004214191 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1636 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] La Paz, 30 Apr (EFE)—The Bolivian Government has ruled out the possibility that the Shining Path terrorist group planted a dozen bombs in La Paz over the past few months.

According to an article published in the local newspaper LA RAZON on 28 April, Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra and La Paz Prefect Fernando Cajias [name and title as received] said they were considering the possibility that the Shining Path had planted the bombs.

The interior minister, the following day, said: "I apparently did not express myself correctly and my statement was misinterpreted" because "there is nothing to prove the existence in Bolivia of a branch of the Peruvian guerrilla group."

The minister added that Bolivian security organizations are "well advanced" in their investigations to discover which Bolivians were responsible for planting the bombs.

One of the bombs was planted in the El Alto International Airport, in the outskirts of La Paz, and another in the Communications Palace. All the bombs were deactivated by the police without causing any casualties.

Food From Cholera-Affected Countries Banned

PY3004183691 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Apr 91 p 8

[Text] (ANF)—Due to the worsening of the cholera epidemic and the deadly spread of the disease throughout the continent, the Bolivian Government has decided to definitively ban the import of food that may be at risk from countries affected by cholera.

Products that are brought into the country illegally will be confiscated and burned.

Trade Under Secretary Jorge Paz Navajas, who reported the terms of Interministerial Resolution 24530/91 (Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Campesino Affairs, and Ministry of Public Health), said a technical commission had been created with members of the three ministries to control the products on the Bolivian market.

The importation of food will be authorized, provided strict commercial and sanitary rules are complied with to guarantee that the food is not infected by the cholera.

The resolution notes that the epidemic continues to spread over several Latin American countries and that it has appeared in towns very close to the Bolivian border, such as the Peruvian town of Puno.

Following are highlights of the resolution:

1. The ban on the import of food that involves danger from countries affected by cholera is hereby maintained.

2. The import of food in general, either fresh or canned food in any type of container from those countries, will be subject to authorization issued through an administrative interministerial resolution of the Ministries of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism, of Social Security and Public Health, and of Agriculture, Livestock and Campesino Affairs.

3. Foreign trade control agencies (?will issue) the corresponding certificates, in keeping with the administrative interministerial resolution referred to in the previous paragraph.

4. The National Police and the General Customs Directorate will be in charge of enforcing the terms of this resolution. Violations of this resolution will be punished with the most severe penalties provided for by the law. Any smuggled food, either fresh or canned in any type of container, or any food items lacking the corresponding interministerial authorization, will be confiscated and burned.

Growth in Nontraditional Exports Reported

PY3004183091 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Apr 91 p 4

[Summary] Guido Cespedes, minister of industry and commerce, has reported that nontraditional exports

totaled $60.1 million during the first quarter of 1991, 5.5-percent more than the corresponding amount for the same period in 1990.

Two New Newspapers Begin Circulation

PY3004145491 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Summary] A new evening newspaper called LA QUINTA DE ULTIMA HORA began circulating in La Paz today. The paper is directed by Lupe Andrade and edited by journalist Ted Cordova Claure. Another newspaper called PRIMERA PLANA will begin circulating throughout the country on 1 May.

Brazil

Government 'Will Not Compromise' With IMF

PY3004215791 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello has reported during the IMF meeting in Washington that Brazil will not compromise with the IMF over inflation ceilings. Before the meeting, she signed the documents for an important loan from the Inter-American Development Bank. The $350-million loan will be used in health programs. She then went to the IMF offices with Central Bank Chairman Ibrahim Eris. Their first important meeting was with U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.

Immediately after that, she prepared for a meeting in which she discussed the Brazilian economic problems and spoke with Jacques de Larosiere, the current French delegate and former IMF director, to whom she explained the conditions that Brazil is prepared to accept from the IMF.

[Begin recording] [Cardoso] My talk with the IMF managing director will be a generalized discussion on the strategy that we will adopt in our negotiations with the IMF.

[Reporter Paulo Henrique Amorim] Here in Washington, we have the sense that the Brazilian Government is not in a hurry to start negotiating with the IMF, is that true?

[Cardoso] I would like to repeat that we are interested in reaching agreements with the IMF and with the Paris Club as soon as possible. [end recording]

Despite all the effort of the Brazilian negotiators, the impression we have here is that Mexico, Argentina, and Peru—in spite of the cholera epidemic and all that—have moved closer to a more permanent agreement with the international financial community than Brazil.

Difficulties Encountered in Debt Renegotiation

PY0105024091 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Brazil's creditors have changed the rules of the game and its difficulties in renegotiating its foreign debt have increased. But, before tackling this problem, Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello paid another marathon visit to Washington.

Accompanied by Ambassador Marcilio Marques Moreira, Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello hardly made it across the road from the IMF to the World Bank. Minister Cardoso was forced to grant an unusual sort of interview for the United States; she granted a news conference while she was walking. She was not even allowed to rest at a red light ordering her to halt.

When she arrived at the World Bank, she signed a loan for the Brazilian railway. Before doing so she reasserted that Brazil wishes to normalize its relations with the international financial community.

[Begin Cardoso recording] The president wants us to reach an agreement soon with the private banks and with the IMF, and wants us to solve the Paris Club issue. [end recording]

The Brazilian delegation has just found out that the creditor banks have changed the rules of the game. In the past, Brazil needed to reach an agreement with the IMF, to be given a green light, before reaching an agreement with the creditor banks. The creditor banks, however, have come to the conclusion that the IMF was being too generous with Brazil by allowing it to accumulate a large amount of interest in arrears and this is why everything changed. Now, Brazil needs to reach an agreement with the creditor banks first and then, an agreement with the IMF. Things have changed for the worst.

World Bank Grants $310 Million Loan for Highways

PY0105014291 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and Infrastructure Minister Eduardo Teixeira visited the World Bank this afternoon to sign a contract for a $310 million loan, which will be used to repair and administer federal highways. During his visit to Washington, Minister Teixeira held several meetings with officials of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

[Begin Teixeira recording] The results have been very positive. We have presented not only the projects that are in the final negotiation stages in Brazil, but also other projects that we have been negotiating with the World Bank for some time, including some linked to the energy sector, to Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] and Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Company,

Inc.]. We have also discussed some ideas that are developing now, particularly those supporting Brazilian highway and railway infrastructures and Latin American integration. [end recording]

Decree Suspends Sanctions Against Kuwait

PY0105021291 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Brazilian companies can again do business with Kuwait. President Fernando Collor today signed a decree suspending sanctions against Kuwait. The sanctions were decreed in August 1990, in compliance with UN resolutions and as a result of the invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Husayn's troops. The suspension was called for by another UN Security Council resolution, which was approved on 2 March. Sanctions against Iraq are still in force.

Salaries Cause Unionization of Military Personnel

PY3004230791 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Apr 91 p 6

[REport by Sonia Mossri]

[Text] The military ministries are concerned over the "unionization" process within the Armed Forces which is being triggered by low salaries and which threatens the hierarchy.

The process in gaining momentum among officers and noncommissioned officers (sub lieutenant and sergeants) through movements in military clubs and in the Federation of Military Reserve Associations [Federacao das Associacoes dos Militares da Reserva—Famir.]

The pioneer of this process is General Nilton Cerqueira who last year was elected president of the Military Club (for Army officers) through a campaign for better salaries for the troops.

The bimonthly "Military Club Magazine" has replaced its articles on amenities with articles defending better salaries for Army personnel.

The Military Club filed an injunction with the Superior Justice Court (STJ) late last March in an attempt to get the court to implement salary equality with those of Superior Military Court (STM) judges.

With a campaign similar to that of Gen. Cerqueira, Vice Admiral Wandyr das Neves Siqueira is a candidate for president of the Naval Club. He seeks to open discussions on ways to improve salaries.

In an interview with FOLHA, Vice Adm. Siqueira affirmed that he intends "to make the discontent [over salaries] within the Navy a matter for discussion at the Naval Club" if he wins the election in May. He said that he does not want to let the Naval Club become a meeting place for officers in the reserve.

In the opinion of Vice Adm. Siqueira, who is campaigning throughout the country, officers on active service and in the reserve must struggle for better salaries. He also wants to modernize the Naval Club, distancing it from ideologies.

General Newton Cruz, former Planalto Palace military commander during the government of General Joao Figueiredo, is a caustic critic of the rupture within the military hierarchy as the result of the struggle for better salaries for the troops.

He said: "I cannot agree with salary demands made through the press," but he recognized that the salaries of officers are low and that many officers are facing difficulties.

Aeronautics officers have initiated a movement to convince Paulo Roberto Camarinha, former chief of the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA), to run for the presidency of the Aeronautics Club.

Camarinha's mission would be to turn the Aeronautics Club into a forum at which problems in the Aeronautics force could be discussed.

Camarinha affirmed that he will not be a candidate because "I am old for that." He supports the movement for transforming the military clubs. "I have always fought for better salaries for military personnel and for civilians, and I left the EMFA for that same reason," he said.

In 1988, following an interview in which he strongly criticized the Sarney Government over military salaries, Camarinha was separated from the EMFA.

Siqueira's proposal for the Naval Club is based on the creation of a new, single entity merging the Naval Club, the Army Club, and the Aeronautics Club. The prospect of this new entity is already causing headaches to the military ministers, who do not support the idea.

Chile

Lautaro Youths Arrested in Clash With Police

PY0105030091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpts] Police arrested four people during an armed propaganda operation by the Youth Faction of the Lautaro Group; one of them was wounded by gunfire in the clash with Carabineros and a police car was shot at several times.

Vestiges of the armed propaganda operation conducted by the Youth Faction of the Lautaro Group at about 2130 last night could still be seen on the outskirts of the (Maria Luisa Bombal Gooseberry) shantytown. According to a police report, about 30 individuals built barricades at the corner of Estados Unidos and Puerto Rico Streets and fired many shots with short- and long-barreled guns.

Shantytown residents summoned Carabineros, who clashed with the subversives. [passage omitted]

During the clash, one of the subversives was shot in a leg. He was identified as Danilo Rojas Arquero, 18, a former technical school student. The following people were arrested with him: Alfredo Andrada Miranda, 32; Angel Munoz Jaun, 27; and Maria Gonzalez Ramirez, 26. They were all placed at the disposal of the 2d Military Court.

During the clash with Carabineros, a police station wagon was shot at several times, but no policemen were injured.

After the clash, the police seized weapons [word indistinct], ammunition, and emblems of the Youth Faction of the Lautaro Group.

During patrols in the shantytown this morning, more weapons were seized although no arrests have been reported.

Priest Said Threatened by Guzman's Murderers

PY3004165491 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Priest Raul Hasbun has confirmed that he has received death threats and that, according to evidence, they come from the same group that killed Senator Jaime Guzman.

[Begin recording] [Hasbun] Five days after Guzman was killed, I was called to the Interior Ministry on the order of the minister, whom I wish to publicly thank. I was told that they were concerned about me because, according to evidence in their possession, I may be on a list of people to be murdered.

[Reporter] Why do you think you were threatened?

[Hasbun] Ideological terrorism needs representation through symbols, symbols of good and evil. In the sixties it was decided that I was an evil symbol. I have been compared with Satan; they have given me that name. Perhaps it is something in my personality, in the way I express my convictions, that generates reactions or hatred. This is very possible. However, I do not know the exact reasons.

[Reporter] According to the information you were given at the Interior Ministry, are those who threatened you connected with the murder of Jaime Guzman?

[Hasbun] Yes, exactly, and for the same reasons. Not from the political point of view—because politics is not my field as a priest—but from the ethical point of view. The greatest obstacle for some groups is moral firmness and integrity. [end recording]

Exiled Socialist Senator Altamirano Interviewed

PY3004202591 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Telephone interview with exiled former Socialist Senator Carlos Altamirano in Paris by reporter Bernardo de la Maza in Santiago –live]

[Text] [De la Maza] Good evening Mr. Altamirano.

[Altamirano] Good evening.

[De la Maza] Will you return to Chile immediately, or will you wait for a definite decision by the court martial?

[Altamirano] I will return as soon as possible but I must first comply with several academic obligations here in Europe. I have also been invited to the University of Mexico next week. I will return to Chile as soon as possible. I would like to add something, I am very grateful to Chilean democracy and to the representatives of the political parties for having given me the opportunity to return to my country after 18 years of exile.

[De la Maza] Do you intend to actively participate in politics?

[Altamirano] My answer is very brief: No.

[De la Maza] The decision issued last weekend or Friday by the Naval Court allows you to return to Chile although it also declares you guilty of sedition. What do you think of this?

[Altamirano] I have serious objections to the form and context of the Naval Court's sentence. These objections will be formally lodged by my lawyer Manuel Valenzuela at the appropriate place and time. I must add that my conscience is clear, I never had criminal feelings, I never favored killing, and I have never participated in any acts of sedition. However, I do not intend to be controversial about this subject because it does not serve current Chilean interests. The most important point is the necessary and undeniable transition to democracy.

[De la Maza] On that subject, what do you think of the armed struggle that some groups continue to support in Chile?

[Altamirano] As you may know, I have been against the armed struggle for a long time. I totally identify with the spirit that drove the president of the Republic to create the Truth and Reconciliation Committee. I also identify with the conclusions reached by this committee, including the part that affects me. I, therefore, condemn all classes of homicidal violence, whatever its pretext or justification. I also reject the criminal murder of Jaime Guzman. I said so previously in a letter to the Socialist Party. I am totally convinced—as Otto von Bismark, the creator of the modern German state, said—that hatred is not a policy. This is my essential leaning now.

[De la Maza] I would like to ask you one final question now that you are ready to return to Chile. Can you say in a few words what these more than 17 years of exile have meant to you?

[Altamirano] Well, like life, they have been sweet and sour. There were times of great pain, like when my parents died and I was not able to be with them during their last moments and when my family split up, but this is the drama through which thousands and thousands of exiles have lived. The positive part is that I have seen the world. I have had time to study and reflect. Of course 18 years is a long time in the life of man. But what else could I have done? The penal code foresees an 18-year sentence only for very, very bad crimes. This is all I can say to summarize these past 18 years.

[De la Maza] Thank you Mr. Altamirano for talking with us.

[Altamirano] Thank you for allowing me make these brief remarks. I have not given interviews, I did not want to give an interview. For several reasons, I just wanted to express these short reflections. Thank you.

Defense Minister Speaks at Promotion Ceremony

PY3004163891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Apr 91

[Text] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas said today that the government has demonstrated its political will to support the continuity of the operational and training capabilities of the Armed Forces.

Rojas spoke at a ceremony headed by President Patricio Aylwin at La Moneda Palace. President Aylwin decorated the recently promoted rear admirals with the president of the Republic's decoration in the Grade of Great Officer.

[Begin Rojas recording] The first year of this administration demonstrated our democracy's political will to support the continuity of the operational and training capabilities of our Armed Forces, and this balanced support will be maintained in accordance with our economic possibilities. [end recording]

Rojas said it is also the duty of the Armed Forces to carefully adjust and plan their needs. Rojas added: Our Armed Forces are not only carrying out their permanent role for peace, deterrence, and defense effectively and with sacrifice, but they are also working tirelessly in planning their future.

The four rear admirals decorated are: Hernan Couyoumdjian, Fernando Sarabia, Roman Fritis, and Carlos Rojas Tampier.

Paraguay Buys 15 'Pillan' Training Planes

PY2604031091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2226 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Santiago, 23 Apr (EFE)—It was reported today during a news conference on the next International Air and Space Fair (FIDAE) that the Paraguayan Air Force has purchased 15 "Pillan" basic training planes manufactured by the National Aeronautics Enterprise, Enaer.

The purchase was announced by FIDAE-92 President General Jorge Iturriaga, who did not specify the date of delivery.

"The truth is that this news should be announced by Enaer, but I am taking the opportunity to tell you that not long ago I met with Enaer officials who confirmed the purchase by Paraguay," Iturriaga said.

The "Pillan" is an aircraft for basic and intermediate training. It is designed and manufactured in Chile with technology components supplied by the U.S. "Piper" company. The aircraft has a flight range of four and a half hours; a maximum speed of 311 km per hour; and a maximum ceiling (altitude) of 6,250 meters.

The plane has been widely accepted in the world market, and 40 are currently flying in Spain.

* Allamand on Rettig Report, Amnesty Law, Castro

91SM0278D Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish 20-26 Mar 91 pp 8-11

[Interview with National Renewal (RN) Party President Andres Allamand by Alejandro Dario Molina; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Molina] What has RN gleaned from the Rettig Report?

[Allamand] We have gleaned four main things from the report. First, confirmation that nothing justifies the violation of individual rights, which are absolute values and must be respected absolutely as well in a civilized society. This is why we denounce all violations of human rights and do not attempt to justify the unjustifiable. Second, acceptance of a broad view of the concept of a human rights violation, because after the Rettig Report no one can dispute that they are violated by government agents and terrorist groups alike. This has enormous conceptual importance for the future, because in a democracy the main threat to the rights of the individual comes precisely from terrorist aggression.

Third, we have confirmation that in order to ascertain and understand what actually happened in Chile in this area, it was essential to refer to the historical context in which the conditions developed that made human rights violations possible. In this regard, the Rettig Report is conclusive. The facts cannot be analyzed in isolation from their reality, which in this case was an erosion of

the rule of law, the weakening of the legal system, the left's high regard for political violence, the recognition of armed revolution as an effective, ideal tool for taking power, the excessive emphasis on ideology that took hold of Chile's political elite in that era, and the meddling role that foreign doctrines played, as they gradually destroyed certain basic consensus views on which Chile had been founded as a nation. And there is a fourth point, which is that the report itself confirms that there is a cause and effect relationship between the collapse of the democratic system and the violation of individual rights. This is an explanation, not a justification. Violations do not occur in a vacuum but rather in a given climate, which was none other than the erosion and exhaustion of our democratic system. [passage omitted]

Investigation and Reform

[Molina] Should the crimes covered by the Amnesty Law be investigated, even if the culprits cannot be put on trial?

[Allamand] National Renewal maintains that all of the actions after the amnesty was declared in 1978 must be investigated to the bitter end, and the culprits must be punished to the fullest extent of the law...Moreover, we agree that it is humanitarian and just to look into procedures so that investigations can be conducted, concerning the period covered by the amnesty, for the specific purpose of ascertaining the whereabouts of the remains of missing victims. In this regard we support at least one of the proposals clearly set forth in the Rettig Report.

But as for the underlying dilemma, our response is categorical: the actions covered by the amnesty should not be investigated. The reason is very simple. The objective of that law and of any amnesty law is precisely to relieve people of criminal liability. Legal doctrine states, beyond any discussion, that no investigation whatsoever can be conducted and that the only proper course of action is to dismiss the case. Therefore, when the government accepts the validity of this law, it is saying that it agrees that whoever the guilty parties might be are not going to be punished by the legal system. And if this is the case, it makes no sense to conduct an inquiry whose only result will be to put the identified individuals in the sights of terrorist groups and at the mercy of public revenge...As if this were not enough, I have here a specific quote from jurist Eduardo Novoa Monreal, the man who devised the famous legal loopholes of the Popular Unity government and who can hardly be impugned by the current authorities: "If the amnesty is issued before the trial begins, no penal action whatsoever can be brought. If it is issued during the trial, the case must be dismissed once and for all." [passage omitted]

[Box, pp 10-11]

If one of the major leaders of Chile's center right went to Cuba, spoke with Fidel Castro, and struck up a friendship with him, it would be a newsworthy event under normal circumstances. In the case of Andres Allamand, however, his relationship with the Cuban leader was fostered by a situation as extraordinary as it was painful. The Caribbean island, whose medicine is in the vanguard in treating certain types of brain damage, opened its doors to Allamand's son, who had been in a serious accident. They did not ask what his political leanings were nor what he thought of Castro and the Cuban revolution. For this very reason Allamand is reluctant to discuss the issue. Whatever he said could be given an erroneous, petty interpretation.

Nevertheless, I said to him, the episode could be enlightening and promote impartiality to counter the self-interested propaganda and routine disinformation that two ideologically opposed political systems direct at each other.

Separate from our interview, Allamand recounted to me with undeniable honesty his experience with Fidel Castro. Although he did not seem too convinced that publishing it was advisable, I have saved part of his frank, sincere testimony. It is not my wish, however, to betray his confidence, much less his discretion.

[Molina] Has your personal perception of Fidel Castro changed now that you have traveled several times to Cuba and had the chance to talk a great deal with him?

[Allamand] I have decided in this regard to make a clear-cut distinction between the man and his politics...I am very grateful to the man. As for politics, I will not comment...

[Molina] Have you cleared up any doubts that you may have had about Fidel Castro and the Cuban process?

[Allamand] I have spoken a great deal with him. He has been extraordinarily kind to my family. As for personal matters, little can be said about Fidel...He is a versatile individual with whom you can chat for hours and hours without tiring. He asks you about everything and accepts the criticisms that you make of him...He would say to me: "I do not know what is happening to me with you, man, because we are talking about these things...But the fact is that two types of people come here: the ones who come to flatter me and the ones who come to give me sermons. And I can seen that you have been back and forth for 3 months, have studied the realities of Cuba thoroughly, have become interested in our problems, and have an perspective that is enriching to us."

[Molina] What does Fidel Castro think deep down of General Pinochet, as opposed to the opinion that usually appears in the press?

[Allamand] Above and beyond the marked ideological differences between them, Fidel Castro is not unaware of Pinochet's contribution to the modernization of Chile. This is why he is interested in finding out all about the results of the social policies implemented in our country. Moreover, I have the impression that he has respect for

the tradition of the Chilean Army. He knows more about our history than anyone could imagine.

[Molina] Oddly enough, Pinochet once described Castro as a "brave" man...

[Allamand] Castro knows that perfectly well...

[Molina] What is Castro's view of Chilean politicians?

[Allamand] He is familiar with and has followed the career of most of them...His closest ties, of course, are with the left. During this new stage they want to open up to all sectors.

[Molina] What does Castro think of Christian Democracy (DC)?

[Allamand] I cannot say for sure, but my impression is that the recent harsh criticism of his government by DC bothers him, since it was not equally severe under the military government.

[Molina] Is he informed or misinformed about the political process in our country?

[Allamand] He knows exactly what has happened and is happening in our democracy. He is curious about the things that the Aylwin administration has changed and has preserved from the previous administration.

[Molina] Have you told him what you think of the situation in Cuba?

[Allamand] Of course...Contrary to what many may think, Fidel is a man who listens to reason.

[Molina] Will you ever talk about your conversations with Castro and the study that you have made of Cuban realities?

[Allamand] Probably...I have written some things down. We shall see later on.

[Box, p 9]

What Allamand Thinks of:

Patricio Aylwin: "...a good president of all Chileans."

Augusto Pinochet: "...a visionary in many things, mistaken in as many others."

Fernando Matthei: "...great contribution to the consolidation of democracy."

Jorge Martinez Busch: "...extraordinary. A man who has lived up to what the Navy is in Chile."

Rodolfo Stange: "...outstanding performance in Carabineros."

Jose Toribio Merino: "...likable, brave, and one of the architects of our country's modernization."

Enrique Correa: "...intelligent and cold."

Jaime Guzman: "...sharp and pragmatic."

Volodia Teitelboim: "...prehistoric."

Andres Zaldivar: "...too Christian Democratic."

Luis Maldonado: "...low profile."

Gabriel Valdes: "...a great politician and a great gentleman."

* Aylwin Sends Judicial Reform Bill to Congress

* Overview Provided

91SM0275A Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish
3-7 Apr 91 pp 6-7

[Report by German Gamonal]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted]

Reform of the Judiciary

The Executive Branch sent Congress the constitutional reform bill and several related provisions to modify the judiciary during the convention of officials and magistrates in Pucon exactly a year ago.

The bill was kept separate from the municipal reform and the big package that the president will announce in his message on 21 May.

The bill sent to the Chamber of Deputies creates two new bodies. One is the National Council of Justice, which is included as Chapter VI-bis. This autonomous body will take part in appointing the justices of the Supreme Court and will safeguard the independence and proper working of the judiciary. Superior-court judges will be appointed by the president of the republic pursuant to proposals from this council, not the Supreme Court, as is currently the case. One controversial provision is that a third of the Supreme Court will consist of attorneys outside the Judiciary. The other is the ombudsman [defensor del pueblo] (Chapter VII-bis), an institution that exists in some European countries and that has a distant precedent in the provisional constitution of 1818. This official will safeguard civil and political rights. He or she will be regulated by an organic constitutional law that Congress must also pass. The ombudsman will be nominated by the president and appointed for a 4-year term by an absolute majority of deputies and senators meeting in the full Congress.

* Council's Role Detailed

91SM0275B Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish
29 Mar 91 pp C1, C6

[Text] Two of the main provisions in the bill to reform the Judiciary that the president of the republic will be sending the National Congress in the days to come are the creation of the National Council of Justice, which

will be empowered to appoint justices of the Supreme Court, and an increase to 21 in the number of members of the high court.

The bill, the details of which EL MERCURIO has seen, also calls for dividing the high court into four areas: civil, criminal, and social-insurance matters, and areas of litigation, administrative matters and others not covered by the previous three.

The bill, which is divided into six sections, thus reaffirms the creation of the National Council of Justice by way of a constitutional amendment that, ever since the possibility of establishing one was raised, has prompted both outright opposition and support from Supreme Court justices, even though the report that they will be sending Congress on this issue is still pending.

The background to the formation of the council includes a speech by Justice Luis Maldonado during judicial year 1990 in which he set forth the characteristics and scope that it ought to have. The president of the republic, Patricio Aylwin, took the suggestion under consideration and referred to the issue at the National Convention of Magistrates in Pucon last year, causing concern among the high-court justices because of the political slant that it could be given.

Functions and Powers

The bill provides that the National Council of Justice shall "formulate judicial policy" and, to this end, sets forth its functions and powers.

Among the main ones is "to draft the five-person lists for the appointment of the justices and the prosecutor of the Supreme Court and to send them to the president of the republic for the corresponding designation."

At present the five-person list is drawn up by the full Supreme Court based on the qualifications of officials of the second rank at the first level of the judiciary, that is to say, judges, justices, prosecutors, and reporters of the Court of Appeals, in addition to the prosecutor, secretary, and reporters of the Supreme Court.

Moreover, it must propose the judiciary's budget to the Finance Ministry and encourage judicial officials to hone their skills, especially through the Judicial School.

The bill provides that the council must "be heard in advance with respect to any proposed constitutional reform, any bill, and in general, any provisions that will regulate the organization and powers of the courts of justice or that refer to procedural norms."

The council must also "plan and execute all activities designed to promote and develop the judicial function, such as research projects or agreements with natural or juridical persons, public or private, national or international."

Another of its functions is "to allocate the funds that the budget provides for the council itself and for the judiciary, and to establish the regulations by which the Administrative Division shall abide for managing and investing them."

It must oversee and monitor, when appropriate, the operations of the Judicial School, the Institute of Expert Services of the State, the National Service of Legal Defense, the Associations of Judicial Assistance, and all of the agencies that discharge functions as auxiliaries to the various courts of the republic."

The bill provides that "the sessions of the council and of its commissions, as well as its decisions, shall be public, unless two-thirds of its incumbent members decide otherwise. Its resolutions or recommendations shall also be public and must be substantiated."

Makeup of the Council

Under the bill, the council will consist of 15 members, among whom will be 2 senators, 3 representatives of the president of the republic, 1 member of the Bar, and 9 representatives of the judiciary.

Another of the bills that the judicial reform includes calls for increasing the size of the Supreme Court from its current 17 justices to 21. This bill is supported by the high court, which has so reported.

Article 93 of the Organic Code of Courts was modified for this purpose, and it was also established that the chief justice will be appointed by the court itself, from among its members, and cannot be reelected. He will serve a 5-year term (the current term is 3 years).

Article 95 was also amended so that the Supreme Court will ordinarily function in four divisions (it currently has three regular divisions and four special ones) or in full session; it is up to the court to decide how they are to be financed.

The bill adds that the justices will be appointed to the four divisions by lots, except the chief justice, so that each has five members. It indicates that the lots will be drawn every 5 years on 1 March of the first year of the 5-year term (the lots are currently drawn annually).

The bill provides for the amendment of Article 98, indicating that the divisions of the Supreme Court will be numbered from one to four and will hear, respectively, civil cases, criminal cases, social-insurance matters, and litigation, administrative matters, and cases not included in the previous three.

Assistant Justices and Judges

In another vein, the bill calls for the establishment of assistant justices, who will perform the same functions as the member attorneys. It also proposes to abolish the latter once the modifications have been made in the Organic Code of Courts.

The bill provides that there will be a body of assistant justices "numbering no fewer than indicated as follows: 12 for the Supreme Court; 15 for the Court of Appeals of Santiago; 8 for the Courts of Appeals of Valparaiso, San Miguel, and Concepcion; 5 for the Courts of Appeals of Talca, Temuco, and Valdivia, and 3 for each of the other courts."

It goes on to say that "the posts of assistant justice shall be filled in the same manner as those of regular justices, but in all cases after a review of qualifications."

Their mission will be to replace the regular justices when they must be away from the court, and they will receive monthly remuneration equivalent to that of the regular justices of the courts to which they belong, including all of the allowances of the post.

The bill also provides that in every city that is the seat of a Court of Appeals, attached to this court "there shall be a body of assistant judges in a number to be determined by the president of the republic, pursuant to a report from the National Council of Justice, from a three-person list proposed by the court itself."

The three-person list will be drafted after a competitive search, with special weight given to the candidate's grades in the Judicial School.

Colombia

Jaramillo Comments on Remarks by U.S. Officials

PA0105014991 Paris AFP in Spanish 0001 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Bogota, 30 Apr (AFP)—Colombian Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo today described as "mere opinions" the statements made by the U.S. ambassador to Colombia and the director of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on the extradition of drug traffickers.

During the ninth international conference on the control of drugs, held in Cartagena last week, the two U.S. officials, Thomas McNamara and Robert Bonner, emphatically rejected the possible abolishment of extradition in Colombia.

The National Constituent Assembly is discussing a proposal to establish in the new constitution a ban on the extradition of Colombians. The U.S. Government believes extradition is essential in fighting drug traffickers.

"Colombia does not accept pressure on the Constituent Assembly, the government or anyone," Jaramillo said when he was asked about McNamara and Bonner's remarks. He also insisted that the statements by the ambassador and the DEA director cannot be viewed as the U.S. meddling in Colombia's domestic affairs. "These are the opinions of representatives of a foreign government, whether they are from the United States or not; they are just that and nothing more," the Colombian foreign minister said.

Rebels Enter Venezuelan Embassy, Demand Dialogue

PA0105004391 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0002 GMT 1 May 91

[Report by Amparo Ponton]

[Text] Three unidentified men—spokesmen of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG]—today caused veritable chaos in the political and public order sectors. The three men, accompanied by politicians, entered the Venezuelan Embassy installations to exert pressure for a direct dialogue with the government.

The CNG today assumed the initiative in the dialogue with the government. The decision was assumed on their own and at their own risk. This was done, according to their letter to FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] leader Alfonso Cano, to spare the executive branch the legal obstacles that had previously prevented similar initiatives for a dialogue.

Consequently, three CNG commanders have been at the Venezuelan Embassy since this morning as guerrilla delegates who will participate in a direct dialogue with the government commission especially appointed for this some time ago. According to the letter to Cano, the various fronts and structures of the CNG received the order to release—as a sign of goodwill—the policemen, soldiers, and marines they hold as hostages.

The guerrillas arrived at the Venezuelan Embassy accompanied by Constituent Assembly member Alvaro Leyva Duran, Senators Jesus Carbajal and Rafael Serrano Prada, and acting UP [Patriotic Union] President Hernan Motta Motta. According to a note from Leyva Duran, the CNG members requested Venezuelan Ambassador Fernando Gervassi's hospitality to hold contacts with the government representative.

A special Security Council meeting is being held at the presidential palace precisely at this hour. Although the executive branch's first reaction was to define the guerrilla action as a measure to exert pressure, sources close to the Narino Palace have stated that the government will eventually accept holding the dialogue with the CNG in Venezuela.

Meanwhile, the Constituent Assembly is discussing a proposal to ask the government to accept the guerrilla initiative and meet with them at the Venezuelan Embassy. The presence of three CNG leaders at the Venezuelan Embassy occurs barely 6 days after the Venezuelan president visited Colombia.

Government Agrees To Talks

PA0105040891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0251 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpt] Bogota, 30 Apr (EFE)—The Colombian Government today agreed to begin talks with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] in Caracas. This decision followed the occupation of the Venezuelan Embassy in Bogota by three representatives of the guerrillas; the Venezuela Embassy later granted asylum to the representatives. The announcement that the government had agreed to begin talks in Venezuela was made by Presidential Communications Adviser Mauricio Vargas.

For the past several months the government has been insisting "on direct talks abroad to put an end to the armed struggle, and it looks favorably upon the possibility of these talks being held in Venezuela," Vargas said. The government official read a six-point bulletin issued by the Office of the President announcing that the Venezuelan Government had been consulted with regard to the government's agreeing to begin peace talks in Caracas. [passage omitted]

Former Justice Minister Assassinated in Bogota

PA0105025291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0210 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Bogota, 30 Apr (EFE)—Police sources have reported that former Justice Minister Enrique Low Murtra was assassinated this evening in Bogota. The police reported that Low Murtra was shot in the head several times, apparently by two unidentified persons, while leaving La Salle University in downtown Bogota. Low Murtra was a professor at La Salle University.

Low Murtra was killed on the day the Colombian people were remembering the assassination of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla seven years ago.

Government Condemns Murder

PA0105153691 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1220 GMT 1 May 91

["Communique" on the assassination of former Justice Minister Enrique Low Murtra issued at the Narino Presidential Palace; date not given—read by station announcer]

[Text] The government expresses its indignation and condemns the assassination of former Minister Enrique Low Murtra. Once again, criminal organizations have murdered a representative of the Colombian justice system.

Enrique Low Murtra was known for his honesty and straightforwardness. He courageously faced the risks inherent to his position of making decisions in the struggle against drug trafficking. He always defended democracy and national interests. Through loyalty and firmness he won the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens. His death represents another significant blow to the institution of justice.

This criminal action points to an urgent need of strengthening the institution of justice in order to be able to prevent crimes of this nature, to apprehend the culprits and to make them pay for their crimes. The government will continue the process of reinforcing justice in Colombia, it will promote all the necessary legal actions, including constitutional measures in the National Constituent Assembly.

The government extends its deepest sympathies to the relatives of former Minister Low Murtra, all his former students and close friends.

Department of Security Explains Cartel Strategies

PA3004173191 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Apr 91 p 9a

[Text] The Colombian drug cartels have implemented a strategy not only to increase their current control of European markets, but also to take over the so-called golden triangle cocaine traffic in Asia.

These plans are also noticeable in several Latin American countries that have been threatened by the mafias that have moved there after feeling pressure from U.S. and Colombian authorities.

This is the conclusion of a document disclosed by the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) that is based on information supplied by the network of countries affiliated to the International Criminal Police (Interpol).

According to the DAS, this situation is a "regrettable reality," proven by new capital investments in real estate, the hotel industry, tourist and agricultural industries, travel agencies, nightclubs, and endless other businesses that allow the mafias to "launder the product of their illicit activities in the best way possible."

Also, the expansion of the international drug market seeks to legalize millions made in sales, with the profiteers paying "special attention to the so-called 'financial paradises,' where huge capitals are transferred to be used in formidable investments that appear to be legal."

Recent intelligence reports collected by DAS conclude that more than 60 percent of the cocaine that has entered Europe over the past two years passed through countries in Latin America.

Latin American drug traffickers have decided to take control of areas that were traditionally dominated by known criminals, such as the "Cosa Nostra," "Camorra," and the "Calambreses." This is possible due to the "connections that drug mafias have made with certain reputable personalities—both in Europe as well as in the United States." All this translates into much corruption at all levels.

"The drug merchants have begun a new offensive into The Netherlands, which also offers excellent opportunities through its busy ports, where over 7,000 containers a day arrive and where it is physically impossible to fully control the merchandise," the DAS document states.

The report stresses that if the dominant presence of drug trafficking in Europe is any indication, the mafias' actions are far more significant in areas considered "impenetrable." This is the case with the so-called "Golden Triangle" in southeast Asia (Burma, Laos, and Thailand), well-known for its opium and mainly heroin trade. "In the areas mentioned, traditional heroin traffickers' routes are used. Mafias make strategic agreements with the heroin traffickers for mutual benefit, trying to encourage cocaine consumption while strengthening their contacts with these networks, with the goal to gain access to Far East markets and to the world heroin market," adds the DAS report.

Under those circumstances, the drug trafficking bands receive a double benefit. They are participating in cocaine trafficking in Europe, North and South America in exchange for a share of the profit generated by the illegal heroin business.

DAS noted that "this shows that international borders pose no problem for drug traffickers. If a government restricts their activities significantly, they simply move their operations to another country where they can fully recover in a short time, keeping their vast economic resources."

DAS added that it is obvious that organized crime has the capacity to plant the drug in one country; process, ship, and distribute it in different countries; and finally launder the money elsewhere.

DAS reported that in the past few months, drug trafficking has notoriously increased in the Caribbean region, an area offering good opportunities because of its geographical position and the opening of new routes to Europe and the United States.

According to DAS, cocaine shipped to Europe and the United States from Colombia is transported via eight clearly established routes: Cucuta-Caracas-Aruba-Madrid-Amsterdam; Cucuta-Caracas-Trinidad and Tobado-Europe; Punta Gallinas-Key Largo-Key Lobo-Key Aguila-Miami; Bogota-San Juan-Madrid; Bogota-Aruba-Rotterdam; Bogota-Caracas-San Juan-Madrid; Bogota-San Jose-Tegucigalpa-Guatemala-Madrid; and Bogota-Tegucigalpa-Miami-Tampa.

"That explains the current boom noticed on the northern Colombian coast as a point of storage and shipping abroad, as evidenced by recent confiscations of cocaine surpassing 25 tons."

The expansion of drug trafficking to international markets is seen as a problem with "profound socio-political repercussions that is dangerously creating underground economies worldwide. What is worse, there are no immediate plans to cope with the situation."

Paraguay

Arrest of Former President Stroessner Ordered

PY3004210791 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 30 Apr 91 p 27

[Excerpt] In an unprecedented move, Judge Felix Silva Monges yesterday decreed the preventive arrest of ousted dictator Alfredo Stroessner Matiauda, as part of the investigations into charges of the torture of Martin Almada. The former dictator is currently exiled in Brazil, but court sources have reported that his extradition can be requested so that he can be tried in Paraguay.

The arrest was decreed on the basis of the case filed by Judge Cristobal Caceres, who was later asked to disqualify himself from hearing the case, and on the criminal charge filed by Martin Almada. The case charges [former Investigative Police Chief] Pastor Coronel, Camilo Almada Morel, Alberto Cantero [both former police officers], and others with psychological torture and with the resulting murder of Almada's wife Celestina Perez.

The case also includes charges of trespass, theft, threats, illegal arrest, and torture. The victim was Martin Almada.

Judge Silva's resolution states: "The criminal case, however, also charges [former President] Alfredo Stroessner, [former Police Chief] Alcibiades Britez Borges, [former Presidential Secretary] Mario Abdo Benitez, and other ousted officials, who—in accordance with the text of the 2 and 3 February coup proclamation—have violated human rights." [passage omitted]

Roundup of Rection to Murder of Journalist

PY3004133091

[Editorial Report] The Paraguayan newspapers NOTICIAS, HOY, ABC COLOR, and ULTIMA HORA carry articles in their 27 April issues protesting the murder of journalist Santiago Leguizamon in the northeastern city of Pedro Juan Caballero on 26 April.

NOTICIAS publishes a 200-word article on page 6 commenting on President Andres Rodriguez's "official cable" regretting the "irrational violence" against "life, democracy, and freedom of press." In the cable—which the paper carries a photocopy of and which was sent to Jose Costa, secretary general of the Union of Paraguayan Journalists, Sindicato de Periodistas del Paraguay, SPP, President Rodriguez promises that the government will use "all legal means to punish" those responsible for the crime.

NOTICIAS also publishes a 430-word article on page 7 reporting on a special meeting held by members of the

Senate and Chamber of Deputies Human Rights Committees on 26 April. After the meeting, the two committees released a communique "vigorously condemning the journalist's murder and expressing solidarity with the Leguizamon family." The communique also urges the government to dismiss the officials of Alto Parana and Amambay Departments to protect "the security of the people who live in these departments."

HOY publishes a 400-word article on page 7 stating that Police Inspector General Pablino Benitez, the government delegate to Amambay Department, told the newspaper reporters: "The murderers came from Brazil and swiftly fled to Ponta Pora," a Brazilian town on the Paraguayan border, "after killing Leguizamon." The article adds that Inspector Benitez reported that Leguizamon had been receiving death threats.

ABC COLOR publishes a 250-word report on page 9 on SPP Secretary General Jose Maria Costa's comments on the march staged on the night of 26 April. According to the newspaper, Costa said: "We are not interested in condolence notes. We want the murder to be investigated and justice to be carried out. (...) We wonder whether this is the modern and democratic Paraguay we have been offered."

ULTIMA HORA publishes a 640-word report on pages 8 and 9 on the march against corruption organized by the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, on the night of 26 April, to which the journalists added their protests against Leguizamon's murder. The march, in which some 10,000 people took part, stopped in front of the Heroes Pantheon where Martin Sannemann, leader of the Authentic Radical Liberal Youth; SPP Secretary General Jose Costa; Julio Cesar Franco, PLRA mayoral candidate for the town of Fernando de la Mora; Senate Vice Presider' Domingo Laino; Msgr. Mario Melanio Medina, bishop of Benjamin Aceval; Anibal Gomez, a journalist and personal friend of Leguizamon; PLRA President Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin; and Juan Felix Bogado Gondra, mayoral candidate for Asuncion, addressed the people and called for "better protection for journalists."

ULTIMA HORA publishes a 300-word report on page 13 on a protest filed by the Association of Paraguayan Lawyers which states that "although it is very painful, Leguizamon's death will represent redemption" and will help the people "fight to defend their rights and dignity" until "corruption inherited from the dictatorship is brought to an end." The report adds that the National Workers Federation has demanded through a communique that the government "adopt urgent measures to prevent violence from spreading." The report concludes by stating: "All of us journalists are mourning."

Electoral Board Registers Mayoral Candidates

PY3004161291 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 27 Apr 91 p 19

[Summary] The Central Electoral Board has registered the following candidates for mayor of Asuncion: Juan Manuel Morales for the Colorado Party; Juan Felix Bogado Gondra for the Authentic Radical Liberal Party; Euclides Acevedo for the Febrerista Party; Herminia Feliciangelis for the Workers Party; Gregorio Segovia for the Blanco Party; Luis Milan Saggia for the National Socialist Party; Carlos Filizzola for the Asuncion For All Citizens Movement; Guillermo Hellmers for the Beyond Party Lines Movement; Juan Arrom for the Free Fatherland Movement; Miguel Fernandez for the Militants Faction Movement; Luis Vega Almiron for the The People to Power Movement; and Jorque Querey for the Popular Democratic Party.

Peru

Economy Minister Interviewed on Economy

PY2604163691 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 21 Apr 91 pp 10-13 Sunday Supplement

[Interview with Economy and Finance Minister Carlos Bolona by Mariella Balbi in Lima, date not given]

[Excerpt] [Balbi] Minister Bolona, how do you view the congressmen's opinion of your economic plan?

[Bolona] There were 89 speakers. It is impossible to answer all of them, but the impression I have is that they seek to criticize the economic program either because it is too liberal or because it is not liberal enough. Because of their political commitments only a few support the program but outside the chamber they told me that I must go on with the program, that I must improve it ....

[Balbi] Do politicians criticize you in public but congratulate you in private?

[Bolona] Correct. Do not forget how Change 90 came to power and the impact it made in some sectors which obviously will not support the program publicly.

[Balbi] Were there any useful observations?

[Bolona] Yes, for example the one referring to revenues. We all know that revenue is the Achilles' heel of the program. Fiscal revenue is very low and the pressure on expenditures is very high. This is nothing new to us. We know that revenue declined in February. It is making some recovery in March but it is still not good. The November tax reform was inadequate. This is why a new reform is needed now. Next May we will have the IGV [General Sales Tax] which will be a large tax that will obtain revenue and prevent fuel price increases.

[Balbi] If the executive branch already knew about this problem, why did the congressmen mention this issue?

[Bolona] I believe it is important that congressmen become aware of this problem. If they say, beware of fiscal problem, it means that expenditures must be cut and revenue must be increased. If they are conscientious they will support my measures to cut expenditures and increase revenue. I would like to see a coherent position when I propose a more extensive and larger IGV. Another important observation was salaries. We know that salaries are extremely low, but if we accept the increase requested by teachers it would amount to more than $4 billion, more that 120 [as published] percent of the budget ....

[Balbi] And what is your conclusion?

[Bolona] We will implement salary increases every so often but they will be selective increases. The treasury does not have enough for everyone.

[Balbi] Most of the bloc representatives harshly criticized your program. Has this made you doubt your objectives?

[Bolona] No, on the contrary it has strengthened my objectives. There is no other way out. We have to discipline ourselves. The country spent more than it had. We cannot think of repeating that excess. The economy is in recession. Let us not forget that the inflation rate in December and January went out of control.

We had to restrict expenditures and the printing of money to put the economy back on the right track. Some people believe that we must print money to reactivate the economy but we must do it within a program and in an orderly manner.

[Balbi] You were criticized for paying $60 million per month to international financial organizations while our country is suffering hunger and misery.

[Bolona] Look, if we are going to reinsert ourselves into the international financial community we have to start paying....

[Balbi] Even if that means hunger and misery?

[Bolona] We are going a step at a time. We are paying $60 million a month because were are expecting a loan. This does not mean that the money will come tomorrow. This is part of a process. The money will probably come during the last quarter of 1991....

[Balbi] Are you sure the money will come?

[Bolona] It will if our timetables and those of the international organizations are fulfilled. We have to work in the negotiations....

[Balbi] Minister, we will pay more than $700 million a year. Would it not be better to invest that money in Peru?

[Bolona] That is what the previous government did....

[Balbi] Is it worth paying if we do not get fresh money?

[Bolona] But we will get it. The question is when. If we get it during the last quarter of this year we must ensure a positive cash inflow. This is what the negotiation is all about because there are ways to get bridge loans that will enable friendly countries to deposit with us the reserves that will allow us to have money in advance [sentence as published]. Then when the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] disburses the money we will be able to pay it directly to the multilateral organizations.

[Balbi] But the support group has not been created yet.

[Bolona] We have progressed a lot. We should have an answer in April or May. There are mechanisms and ways to negotiate positive results. We need to seek them.

[Balbi] Then we will continue to pay.

[Bolona] Yes. We must look for resources with which to alleviate the situation of salaries and our recession.

[Balbi] The prime minister has said that there is a limit to servicing the debt. What is the limit?

[Bolona] We have to be practical. Why pay if we do not receive anything in return? The support group should be created in May. We have negotiated some loans with the IDB that will be disbursed during the last quarter of the year. But we cannot sit idle and wait. We have to seek ways to get aid before then.

[Balbi] If you had to give odds, what are the chances that a support group will be created?

[Bolona] Above 70 percent. The Japanese prime minister had a very good idea. He said that Japan would join the group and the United States has confirmed that it is a natural leader. We must not forget, however, that there are risks involved. Guyana, for instance, did not do so well and got only $12 million.

[Balbi] What would the money be used for, if we get it?

[Bolona] We are talking about $1.3 billion. The money will be used to pay part of our debt and to support our balance of payments. The IMF is refinancing our delinquent debt and the World Bank is seeking formulas to help us. All this means great progress. The Latin American Reserve Fund would loan us funds to pay the IDB. The issue of the support group and the quantity of aid will be defined in May.

[Balbi] Will the IMF approve the Peruvian reference program at the end of April?

[Bolona] The IMF is already monitoring the program. It has already been approved and it only needs to be signed. The support group must be formed before we can have access to sources of financing.

[Balbi] Speaking of economic indicators, what did Peru promise in the program?

[Bolona] We are working on an easier-to-handle deficit of 3 to 4 percent of the GDP. We talked about monetary goals and money emission.

[Balbi] Did we stipulate an annual inflation rate?

[Bolona] Yes, but do not forget that we did not reach our goal in January.

[Balbi] What about from now to the year end?

[Bolona] The trend is for figures of less than 3 percent per month by the end of the year. We want to increase tax collection levels to 10.2 percent of the GDP. Now we are collecting 8 percent. The IMF will help our self-discipline, but it would be ideal if we could reach that goal on our own.

[Balbi] The IMF could say that we did not fulfill our commitments for January, February....

[Bolona] They cannot say that because we can show progress in several fronts, particularly on structural reforms.

[Balbi] What would happen if the support group is not created? Have you considered that possibility.

[Bolona] If the group is not created, then we will continue to negotiate, seeking formulas and bilateral agreements with countries.

[Balbi] Will we continue to pay $60 million a month meanwhile?

[Bolona] That is the challenge of the economic team. One possibility is to stop paying, another is to seek foreign resources to cover the gap until we get a new influx of capital. If we were to lose all capacity to negotiate—and I do not think this will be the case—we would stop paying.

[Balbi] Will Peru ask the Paris Club to pardon the debt?

[Bolona] We must do it. The Polish scheme does not help us because they asked that the debt be pardoned in the future. Besides, they did not have a debt that has been delinquent for eight years.

[Balbi] Do you disagree with the president of the BCR [National Reserve Bank] who is against asking for pardoning of debts?

[Bolona] We have to go through the "exercise" at the Paris Club. We are considering all options. We have to seek different alternatives.

[Balbi] Why do you not say that you disagree with Jorge Chavez? Disagreements are healthy.

[Bolona] Almost all our disagreements have been healthy, I can assure you.

[Balbi] The prime minister said during his speech to Congress that the government seeks to close the poverty gap. Many people think, however, that the Bolona Plan is widening the breach. What would you tell them?

[Bolona] When we seek to reduce inflation and the unsupported emission of money we are supporting stability and we are keeping the purchasing power of salaries from falling.

[Balbi] But in human terms that means cholera, tuberculosis, undernourishment, and malaria.

[Bolona] Let us not associate economic policies with cholera.

[Balbi] But the disease is a by-product of poverty.

[Bolona] But the problem has been developing for years. Poverty is not the consequence of a decree in EL PERUANO, it is something that started long ago. The country has become impoverished, and that has to change.

[Balbi] The problem, however, has become more acute since last August.

[Bolona] Hyperinflation has an immense social cost. That is why we have a social emergency program [PES].

[Balbi] It would be better to say that there is not one, at least we cannot see it.

[Bolona] We had some problems and the program did not work for some months. That was wrong. We have publicly recognized it. But the program is moving now. We have 3,000 people collecting garbage in Lima and surrounding areas. Our goal is to mobilize 10,000 people here.

[Balbi] Do you call that a new beginning for the PES? No one noticed it.

[Bolona] We do not like to talk too much. We will have 5,000 people building latrines and another 5,000 people will be working in schools. We will have 20,000 people working at the PES by the end of April.

[Balbi] Former Prime Minister Hurtado Miller used to mention the PES although he did not do anything about it. You do not even mention it, doesn't it interest you?

[Bolona] I would rather mention what I am doing instead of announcing that "I have so many hundreds of millions of dollars to be used there." I have told you it is costing us $20 million....

[Balbi] Over what time span?

[Bolona] Between three and five months.

[Balbi] Your austerity differs from the generous position of the prime minister who has offered us $400 million for the PES....

[Bolona] He said that it will have foreign financing and we will contribute with a portion....

[Balbi] Where will you find the $120 million for internal financing?

[Bolona] It means $10 million a month. With tax collection, with a more substantial IGV we will be able to obtain it.

[Balbi] When will this $400-million super program begin?

[Bolona] We have already started it. We have $20 million for 20,000 people who collect garbage, as I told you. That will be felt among the people. We are generating more employment and will continue to grow.

[Balbi] Is it just too easy to adjust the economy, reducing salaries, increasing hunger, and increasing unemployment?

[Bolona] It is not easy to put the economh in order. It is easier to print money and give it to whomever asks for it. It is easy to spend and give away money. To give the right orientation for money spending is complicated....

[Balbi] The problem is that there is no order here, everything gets worse ....

[Bolona] The disorder in the country is too great. When one seeks to stabilize the economy, that type of problem is inevitable.

[Balbi] What use is the economy, if it does not take into account the human being?

[Bolona] The economy has been destroyed. We are reorganizing it to serve the people, and that is the social cost we are paying for having led the economy to a collapse, for having spent more than what we have. It is true that it was a mistake that the PES did not function for three months.

[Balbi] Surely it would be cheaper to invest in health than to lose millions of dollars in exports because of cholera?

[Bolona] I fully agree....

[Balbi] Then why do you not do so?

[Bolona] We are investing $8 million in fighting cholera. Of course it is not an extremely large sum but what is necessary is being done. The PES is now fighting cholera. Of course we all want more.

[Balbi] What kind of a country do you want to build, Mr. Minister?

[Bolona] An exporter country. A country that will guide its exports toward agroindustry, fisheries, mining, and textiles.

[Balbi] So far we are exporting raw material.

[Bolona] That same thing was probably said to Mexico and to Chile many years ago. And they took the step forward.

[Balbi] Meanwhile—and excuse me if I insist—nurses will continue earning 35 million, policemen and teachers 50 million....

[Bolona] That will be improved. I cannot award prizes for strikes. Look, an increase was granted in February, and another increase will probably be granted in May within an upcoming selective degree.

[Balbi] Why has part of the latest increase in gasoline prices been earmarked to increase the salaries of Petroperu [State Petroleum Agency] workers, and not those of the teachers?

[Bolona] Petroperu has to pay its way. It has to make an effort. It would have had problems if it did not make some operational expenditures....

[Balbi] Excuse me, but my question is why have they increased their salaries?

[Bolona] Not much of it was earmarked for that purpose. Petroperu must operate adequately within the current situation. The other alternative was to endure a shortage of gasoline etc. Petroperu will have to make its adjustments and to make an effort from now on.

[Balbi] How long will this recession last?

[Bolona] If we want to stop hyperinflation, a recessive stage of one year or more is inevitable.

[Balbi] You are being criticized because you exaggerated "in the report ...."

[Bolona] There are ways to reduce them [as published]. The PES is one of them and it is beginning to function. The other is not to exceed the money issuance goals and to prevent increased prices. The strict price control imposed in January and February was more flexible in March. Our recession is very tough because the effects of cholera are extended to our exports, and to tourism.

[Balbi] What will you do to alleviate it?

[Bolona] With a good monetary program, by easing up on all that pertains to liquidity, by promoting exports, and by continuing to improve the exchange rate.

[Balbi] When will we begin to grow?

[Bolona] We must obtain a positive impact at the end of this year, although the cholera has somewhat complicated matters for us. Next December we will observe some signs of recovery. In 1992 we will begin to grow but we have to maintain a stable economy.

[Balbi] There are those who believe that inflation has not been totally defeated....

[Bolona] There is a tendency for it to decrease. In April it will be between 5 and 6 percent, in May it will continue to decrease, and it will amount to 2 percent by the end of the year. Everything depends on the fiscal sector. If I pay

every salary increase that is asked for, inflation will sprout again and in the end the workers will be worse off.

[Balbi] Will the dollar continue to lag?

[Bolona] No. We have outlined a policy that will allow it to reach an adequate par. The exchange market has been unshackled and this will contribute to the flow of dollars. The intervention of the BCR is also contributing to an increase in the rate....

[Balbi] If you did not do this, would the dollar fall....

[Bolona] Look, one day the BCR went out and bought $20 million and it did not even tickle the exchange rate. Three Tucano planes were sent to the Huallaga [Valley] and the rate went up immediately. They are now going to stay there for 30 days. Additionally, inflation will fall because of the increase in the dollar rate.

[Balbi] The income from taxes will not be enough to cover state spending. Will the increased IGV that you mentioned at the beginning of this interview be sufficient to achieve a balance?

[Bolona] We want to achieve a tax collection level of 10.2 percent. It currently stands at 8 percent and the budget calls for 12 percent. We have to increase the IGV and we have to improve the administration of taxes. Customs and personal income tax have to render more. Sending people to jail for tax evasion is a good way to control it, and we are going to implement it. If we achieve 10.2 percent then we have attained a fairly high goal. It can be achieved with the measures I have just mentioned.

[Balbi] The budget calls for a tax collection level of 12 percent, will you ask for a supplementary line of credit?

[Bolona] I do not want to, I am going to cut expenditure.

[Balbi] How?

[Bolona] There are current expenditures and investment. I cannot yet give you anything more specific. The cuts in investment will be important.

[Balbi] The superintendent for tax collection must have thought about resigning due to disagreements with Deputy Finance Minister Alfredo Jalilie. Will Manuel Estela stay on?

[Bolona] I was on a trip (he laughs). It was just a small misunderstanding. We talked it over and it was cleared up immediately. Do not forget that there are posts with a great deal of pressure and responsibility and there are always misunderstandings. Estela will remain in his post.

[Balbi] The sale of public enterprises has not been very successful.

[Bolona] It is a process that takes three or more years in most countries. Additionally, here we must unblock a number of obstacles because there are a lot of bureaucratic procedures. [passage omitted]

RTP Official Briefs Congress on Media 'Crisis'

PY2704161891 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0113 GMT 27 Apr 91

[Text] The crisis Peruvian Radio and Television is suffering and the alternatives for pulling it out of this situation have been explained to the transport and communications committee of the Chamber of Deputies by Jose Maria Salcedo, president of the board of directors.

The president of Peruvian Radio and Television met today with the transport and communications committee of the Chamber of Deputies chaired by Congressman Miguel Alva Orlandini.

[Begin Salcedo recording] Messrs President and members of this committee: On behalf of Peruvian Radio and Television, I want to thank you for this invitation. I hope I will help you to get an idea, although sketchy, of the situation this enterprise is suffering. It is an enterprise of obvious national interest and is destined to comply with Article 37 of the Constitution of the Republic, which mandates that the Peruvian Government support education and culture through its social communications media. [end recording]

During the hearing, Mr Salcedo briefed the committee members on the serious crisis Peruvian Radio and Television is suffering. He also presented alternatives for pulling out of this difficult situation.

[Begin Salcedo recording] We would like to commit our best personal efforts to making this enterprise a vehicle of freedom of expression for all political groups, without any restrictions whatsoever. In this way we will be complying with a constitutional madate and laying the basis, to the extent possible to us, for the grand national dialogue that is needed and at the service of which the media should be. [end recording]

Law Authorizes Intervention of Financial Sector

PY2704151691 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] The superintendency of banks and insurance companies is authorized to intervene and inspect any enterprise or institution authorized to engage in financial activities. This information is contained in a communique issued today by the superintendency of banks and insurance companies. The communique was carried by the local media. The measure is included in the new banking law.

New Penal Code Guarantees Journalistic Privilege

PY2704151091 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The new penal procedural code promulgated by President Alberto Fujimori last night guarantees a journalist's right to privileged communication.

The code, which will be implemented in May 1992, also describes the public prosecutor's role. [passage omitted]

Terrorist Groups Active, Incidents Described

Policeman Killed, Schools Occupied

PY3004222991 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0224 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Lima, 29 Apr (EFE)—Police sources have reported that terrorist groups today murdered one policeman and took over three schools in Lima. The terrorists shouted subversive slogans at teachers and students, and painted graffiti on the walls.

Sergeant Jorge Aliaga was killed by two shots fired by unidentified individuals as he was getting out of his car near his house in the Rimac district. The subversives escaped after stealing his service revolver.

Shining Path members, armed with weapons and explosives, entered three schools in Villa El Salvador and threatened the teachers and students. The Shining Path members painted the school walls with slogans against the antidrug agreement being negotiated by the Peruvian and U.S. Governments. The subversives encouraged the students to participate in the armed struggle and planted bombs in different parts of the schools. The bombs were deactivated by the police.

Alleged members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) detonated a bomb at the door of the Engineering School in Lima. Security forces deactivated four other bombs inside the school. The police also reported from Puno, in the southeastern part of Peru bordering with Bolivia, that a bomb exploded today in an office of the Agriculture Ministry causing serious material damage. Police sources also reported that a car bomb left by two unidentified individuals 150 meters from the Government Palace was deactivated. [passage omitted]

Set Off Bombs During Protest

PY0105033691 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpts] The demonstration by health workers today on Abancay Avenue was again infiltrated by terrorists who exploded dynamite near the national library. The explosion created alarm among the demonstrators but no one was hurt.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] An explosion occurred a few minutes ago near the Economy Ministry during a march by health workers. Apparently the dynamite was thrown by a terrorist infiltrator. [passage omitted]

The police have arrested a suspect. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Radio Station Occupied

PY0105034691 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] A group of terrorists this morning occupied Oriente radio station and forced the operators to broadcast a recording with subversive slogans. This incident took place today at 0620.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified radio station employee] I was sitting here as normal during my shift when two people came in saying they were from an Ayacucho radio program and they wanted to speak with our program director. Since the director was not here, the two men waited for him. One of them simply rang the bell and someone opened the door and let them in. These two men locked the rest of the employees in a bathroom.

[Unidentified reporter] How many of them were there? Were they all men or were there also women?

[Radio station employee] They were two men and a woman.

[Reporter] Were they armed?

[Radio station employee] Yes, the three of them were armed.

[Reporter] Could you identify what group they belonged to—the Shining Path or the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement]?

[Radio station employee] I do not know much about terrorism but they were talking about Comrade Gonzalo or President Gonzalo. They must have been from the Shining Path.

[Reporter] Did you listen to the recording they broadcast?

[Radio station employee] I listened to part, the part in which they were talking about Labor Day and President Gonzalo.

[Reporter] What time did this take place?

[Radio station employee] At 0620 or 0622 today. [end recording]

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Spain

WA3004140191

For Spanish reportage on the visit by Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, president of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, to Spain, including reports on his talks with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, please see the Spain section of the 30 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

* Human Rights Groups Request Investigation

91WR0190V Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 22 Mar 91 p 9

[Text] Pablo Rojas Rojas, president of the Human Rights Commission [Comisedh], last night called for media support in demanding that President Fujimori launch a rigorous investigation of last week's attack on attorney Augusto Zuniga Paz. Rojas branded the incident "an attack against human rights groups and democracy."

Attending the meeting were: Luciano Metzinger, president of the Church Commission for Peace Action (Ceapaz); Ceapaz coordinator Pilar Coll; Jaime de Althaus, publisher of "Expreso"; and editors Enrique Zileri of "Caretas" and Ricardo Uceda of "Si." The attack against Zuniga Paz is a matter of "utmost gravity" that has cast a shadow over Peru's image in the eyes of other countries, Rojas Rojas said.

He indicated that Senator Enrique Bernales, president of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, had expressed his concern about this criminal act to the president. He stressed that the U.S. Department of State has also condemned the incident and given its support to the human rights groups.

Monsignor Metzinger called human rights the underpinning of democracy and called for an immediate reaction on the part of public opinion to thwart this escalation of violence.

He agreed with the need to form a common front to prevent these groups from being intimidated by criminal attacks such as the one suffered by Zuniga Paz. "If we want democracy, let us defend human dignity," he said.

* Court Overturns Ruling in Human Rights Case

91WR0190Y Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 21 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] Criminal Division II of the Supreme Court reversed last November's ruling by the Eighth Court of Corrections granting a writ of habeas corpus against the Interior Ministry and two chiefs of the National Police by the family of missing university student Ernesto Castillo Paez.

Counsel for the Castillo Paez family throughout the case was Augusto Zuniga Paz, who heads the legal department of the Association for Human Rights in Peru. Last Thursday Zuniga lost his left forearm in a letter-bomb explosion.

Criminal Division II found a large number of defects in the lower court's decision and ruled that a new motion must be filed. The plaintiffs sought a writ of habeas corpus against: Interior Minister and General of the Peruvian Army Adolfo Alvarado Fournier; General Victor Manuel Alva, chief of General Police; PT [Technical Police] General Enrique Oblitas Jaen, chief of the Courterterrorism Division of the Peruvian Investigative Police.

Venezuela

* Banking Group Favors Slower Financial Reforms

91SM0273A Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish Section 2 22 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] The Venezuelan Banking Association says it is necessary to act gradually and deliberately when opening up Venezuela's economy to foreign banks.

The 1990 annual report of the Banking Association 1990, which was approved yesterday at its regular assembly, explains its views on the financial system's reform.

The Banking Association supports some measures which are under study and others which have already been put into practice, but calls for further discussion of some projected aspects of the reform.

For example, the report states that the current specialized banking plan for Venezuela has had and still has some definite advantages, but the system's modernization requires that Venezuelan legislation place greater emphasis on prohibited activities, and allow the system to develop its creative capability in the rest of its operations, especially at a time when the banking business is continually introducing innovations.

The association maintains that if it is actually decided to change the system, this objective may be achieved within any organization plan, but the transition from one system to another must take the current situation's operational features into consideration.

The report further notes that the banking community's competitive position and assets need to be strengthened, as part of the structural change taking place in our economy.

In fact, any modification in the resources allocated in the economy produces as a consequence a change in the risk levels and structure of bank portfolios. Loans which now have an acceptable risk rating could become irrecoverable debts tomorrow because of the borrowers' loss of competitiveness. This means that creditors must create reserves to be charged to their profits, and possibly, to their assets.

Such processes are inherent in structural change, and have had major impacts in other countries.

The Banking Association maintains that with the opening up of the financial sector to foreign investment, it is inevitable that new competitors will appropriate major market accounts, not because of the inefficiency of the existing Venezuelan institutions, but rather because they will come into the market with totally clean credit balances which the economic strategy has made unrecoverable, and at a time when Venezuela's national banks can not grow at their earlier rate because the demand for new capital investment to cover liabilities is too high.

The report further notes that adopting international criteria for valuing assets and liabilities and to form liquid profits is a highly significant change, one which must be introduced gradually.

For all these reasons, the report argues that it is not sensible to make these changes hastily, as the process of adjusting the practices and customs of the banks' clients takes time, and requires that their cash flows be adjusted to meet the new regulations.

For all the preceding reasons, adds the report, the banking community has always emphasized the need for working together in this field. To date, both the president of Venezuela and the Central Bank of Venezuela have acted in harmony with this policy of working together, and we sincerely hope they will continue to do so.

Positive Performances in 1990

The report of the Venezuelan Banking Association also mentions the first economic performances for 1990. In general terms, the economy's behavior was positive. The domestic economy grew at a significant rate because of the impetus generated by increased petroleum activity and the snowballing effect of fiscal management. External accounts closed with a strong surplus, due to the increase in value of oil exports because of the Persian Gulf crisis and the reduced pressures on capital accounts, because of investors' more positive views of Venezuela's economic future.

Nevertheless, cost-push inflation and margin recovery problems continued to inhibit real earnings and private investment.

The chief characteristic of financial market trends was the persistent disequilibrium between investment capital available and net credit placements.

The magnitude of this disequilibrium, slightly more than twice what it was last year and equivalent to 74 percent of the investment capital, generated strong downward pressures on domestic interest rates, which, if these rates had actually been lowered, would have strongly affected the exchange rate.

Therefore, in order to avoid such effects, the monetary authorities decided to implement a major open market policy which made it possible to absorb about 54 percent of the bank surplus.

When the financial system was able to invest resources generated from the public profitably, it was also able to compensate investors appropriately, thus averting a capital flight. Investments basically took the form of zero coupon bonds.

* Industrial Analyst Sees Gaps in Export Policy

91SM0273B Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish Section 2 22 Mar 91 p 12

[Text] Not only does Venezuela lack an export strategy similar to the strategy of the "Asian tigers" (Korea, Taiwan, and Japan), it does not even match the steps taken by Mexico and Chile, to cite just two examples. Furthermore, Venezuela does not have an integral policy supporting its export sector; this prevents the existence of a very short-term way of thinking [as published] in Venezuela. No exporter can think of or plan any action, not even a mid-term action, as there are no foundations for stable export activity over a period of time.

With this statement, IESA [Institute of Higher Education for Administration] Professor Antonio Frances, who in 1988 and 1989 conducted two studies of the Venezuelan industrial sector to determine the problems and successes in Venezuelan export activity, spoke on this issue during a seminar sponsored by the ILDIS [Latin American Social Research Institute].

Professor Frances believes that starting in 1989 Venezuela decided to change its former policy of replacing imports, but without introducing an integral policy designed to promote exports.

"We have no coherent system," said Frances. "There may be a number of fragmentary provisions and instruments. We do not have an aggressive export policy as they do in Korea or Taiwan. We have not even taken steps similar to those taken by other Latin American nations, like Mexico and Chile; we cannot even compare with those countries."

The speaker concluded that Venezuelan exporters cannot think about the mid-term period, but must always focus on the short term. They always have to base their decisions on how they view the horizon right in front of them. They can not think about anything beyond that.

"This fragmentary policy generates a short-term export mentality, which blocks any action to promote a stable export business in Venezuela," said the speaker.

Professor Frances examined in greater depth the measures or incentives which the Executive adopted for the nontraditional export sector as part of the economic policy established in 1989. In his view, this policy "has not been fully developed."

First of all, he explained that the ATP [Temporary Entry for Active Processing] system (which allows exporters to buy their raw materials without paying customs duties) is not completely functional. Nor is the stock replacement system working, or the tax rebate system, since the approved resolution has still not been published in the GACETA OFICIAL.

The export voucher system is working on a theoretical or symbolic level, since it has not been officially buried, nor has it been cancelled.

When speaking of another of the export incentives, he mentioned the recently approved financing in dollars through an agreement between the BCV [Central Bank of Venezuela] and the commercial banks.

However, this cannot be considered a stimulus until it begins to operate and until it is proven that this mechanism is actually functional. This financing of exports in dollars was conceived with an eye toward offsetting the higher prices caused by high interest rates charged by Venezuelan banks which provide financing for exports. It is assumed that financing in dollars at international interest rates will reduce the cost for the exporting companies. But this feature has not yet been definitely approved, said Frances.

Finance Ministry at the Heart of the Issue

Professor Antonio Frances said that the export promotion policy in Venezuela could be subdivided into two major phases: from 1970 to 1989, and from 1989 on. The first phase was governed by the import replacement policy, in which exports were treated as secondary. They were at a definite disadvantage when tariff protection standards were set. The export voucher attempted to correct these problems.

Concerning the overabundance of permits or the excessive red tape required by government agencies, which was the "golden rule" during the previous phase, Frances believes that this problem has been somewhat alleviated for exports, although not completely eliminated.

"The one-stop export office, set up in the ICE [Foreign Trade Institute] to alleviate the duplication in official red tape in dealings with government agencies, is functioning to the extent that ICE and the finance ministry are coordinated internally. This means that a businessman can deal with just this one office. The customs classification is [illegible] handled by the ministry of finance.

When he analyzed the complexity entailed in other procedures, he said that the calculation used to determine the national added value has been fairly well simplified. The export license was eliminated in 1989, although such a license must still be obtained for basic market basket items. Plant health permits remain the same, and some highly specific products (live animals, precious stones, etc.) still require this type of documentation, which is obtained from the ministry of energy and mines and from the ministry of the environment.

What unfortunately remains just the same as in the Venezuela "of the past" is customs. No progress has been made there.

"We continue to maintain dozens of customs requirements for exports, and there has not even been any discussion of curtailing these procedures. That is where efforts should be concentrated, and it is the ministry of finance which will decide whether or not the system will be opened or closed. A mountain of permits is piled up there," said Frances.

He also said that with the disappearance of the export voucher, the Foreign Trade Institute would have fewer responsibilities for issuing export permits, but the ministry of finance still requires a considerable number of procedures for exports.